

Kind regards, and 579
much sympathy to

MR. ALEXANDER A. ANDERSON

you and yours in your
great sorrow.
Hendrickson R

With my deepest
sympathy

ack

Mrs. Wesley Hotley Angle

43 East Boulevard
Rochester N. Y.

act,

September 18 - 1934

133 EAST PALISADE AVENUE
ENGLEWOOD, N. J.

Dear Emma Sheer,

In the grief and bewilderment - of these tragic days your suffering heart - may be too full for human words to reach you, but - some day I may read of the outpouring of sorrow and inspiration which goes to you and Bob in this hour from countless loving hearts - and the prayers which go up continually that you may know even more than ever before the upholding strength of our Heavenly Father's love - Such a life of beauty

and glorious usefulness ~~must~~ go on to yet-
greater service in a fairer world. To have brot-
such an one into being must be to me as a
crown. Harry is ill and unable to write but
I will know that from us both goes a
warmth of love and sympathy which cannot
be expressed. Affectionately, your friend,
Callie Edmunde.

620

Most heart felt sympathy

Mrs. Benjamin Walworth Arnold

465 State Street

Dear Mrs. Speer,

Returning from
a holiday our last winter
I have learned of your
great grief with its
deeper concerns and pain.

May the faith in which
your beloved Son lived, and
which I know is yours,
surround and strengthen
you in this experience
which is beyond our poor
human understanding.

Faithfully and tenderly
yours,

Katherine D. Allen
(Formerly of the National Staff
Y. W. C. &.)
Sept-21.

clerk.

Katharine L. Aller

Deepest sympathy

Mrs. Edgar Stirling Archibald

Os

Darlene Come
123 East Sixty-ninth Street



619

Although the cross you bear
is great
May faith in God above
Bring lasting strength
to compensate
The loss of One you Love!

Mrs. & Mrs. E. E. Adams
Bassett & (Kasha Blush)
111 Bassett Street, Boston, Mass.



Plaza Hall Apt. #210,
347 N. Lausdowne Ave.,
Lausdowne, Pa.

15 September 1934

My dear Bob:

I am profoundly shocked
ed by the tragic death of your
son. Let me offer you my
deepest sympathy.

Faithfully yours,

W. R. Brownson

607 BROADWAY
PATERSON, N.J.

Dear Dr & Mrs Speer;

Under this crushing
blow of the unseen powers
of darkness which has just
come into your lives you
have been brought even more
close to us through our prayers
& family altar. We are remembering
you that the Lord will strengthen
& sustain you both to bear
up under this great & irretrievable
loss. This is to assure you
of our deepest sympathy.

George Arnold
Bertha Anne Arnold

Sept seventeenth
MCMXXXIV

87

FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
FIFTH AVE. & FIFTY FIFTH STREET.
NEW YORK.

Saturday.

Dear Mr. Spurr,

It was
a shock and a grief
to read the item in
this morning's Times
The host of your
friends in this Church
would join me in

sending sincerest
sympathy were they
here to do it. You and
the family connection
will be remembered
in Mr. Stevenson's
pastoral prayers
tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,
Robert W. Anthony.

Mr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City.

616

270 Bronsville Road
Bronsville, N. Y.

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Speer:

My deepest
sympathy goes out to you
in this great sorrow which
has come upon you so sudden-
ly. May our Heavenly Father
comfort and sustain you now
and in all the days to
come.

Very sincerely yours
Edith Aber

September seventeenth

07

81 Albany Ave. Toronto

Robert E. Speer D.D.
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City.

Dear Dr Speer—

A letter from the Board
rooms, received today, was
the first intimation we
have had of the suffering
that has recently been
sent you in the death
of your son. The abrupt
and shocking manner
in which the blow fell

bound to you as I do now while I suffer with you.

I have recently received great benefit from a clearer grasp of the truth that suffering is sent us not to be merely endured but to be used.

It has been my custom to pray for you frequently, and now my prayer for you shall be that you may have a vivid sense of Jesus suffering with you and giving

and the mystery that surrounds some aspects of the incident must add greatly to the burden.

I still cherish the letter in which you expressed sympathy in the day of my great bereavement.

But in all the years of my association with you, enriched for me by uniform kindness and loving consideration on your part, I have never felt as closely

you this suffering as a priceless
treasure that will enable you to
make ever more glorious for Him
and His Heavenly Kingdom.

Sincerely your brother in Christ

Jas. B. Ayres

ALEXANDER W. ARMOUR

155 HENRY ST.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Nov 19th 1934

Dear Dr. Spies -

Ever since last
September it has been on my
mind to write you and this
morning the arrival of the
Order of Service of the
Memorial occasion at the
School on Nov 11th (very kindly
forwarded - by my dear friend
Mr Henry H. Wells impels me
to do so.

123

I am, therefore, able to "share" with
you in that delicate surgery of the soul
we call human grief.

With warmest appreciation of all
that you have been enabled to do for
your day and generation, believe me,

Very heartily yours,

W. A. Hancock

Meet you in several times
at the home of Mr. Bell. He was
a high and exalted soul. It must
give you a sense of high and
solemn pride to feel that
he should go forward to the
larger life through the door
of martyrdom.

My dear mother - who was
my constant companion and
my great inspiration - was
taken from me last February
and I have been left all
alone in my little home.

om

HARRIS ELY ADRIANCE
133 EAST PALISADE AVENUE
ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Oct. 19 '24

My dear Rob.

How often during these past weeks have you & Emma been in my thoughts. The sudden, blinding tragedy, which took from you your noble son leaves us all dazed. His was such a necessary life - the work he was doing was such a noble endeavor and yet, despite all, the assassin's bullet ended it all. God is His own Interpreter & He will make it plain^{ly} - at sometime and somewhere we shall fathom

the mysteries that are hid-
den from our eyes in this
life -

What strength and courage
are given us in time of
stress & sorrow as we take
to ourselves God's pledge -

"When thou passeth thru the
waters I will be with you -
thru the waters they shall
not over flow thee" -

It is the consciousness of
the Master's presence that
enables us to "carry on" -
God bless you both! Sallie
joins with me in expressions
of deepest sympathy.

Faithfully -

Carrie E. Adair

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Received at

GR138 10=PRINCETON NJ SEP 15 453P

DR ROBERT F SPEER, I

DONT PHONE=MOUNT HERMON SCHOOL EASTNORTHFIELD MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

=PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE AFFECTIONATE SYMPATHY IN YOUR
TRAGIC BEREAVEMENT=

MR AND MRS HOWARD E ANDERSON.

.517P

Esther Abraham

HS

628 Jefferson St
Gary, Ind. Dec 7th 1934

To the Rev. R. E. Spear D.D.

Dear old friend

I was very sorry to see in the papers
how you have lost your dear son.
I know well what it mean to a father
& mother's heart. as long we are in this
human body, there is no doubt we
will feel parting from our loved one.
May the dear Lord comfort your
broken heart, help you to bear this
heavy burden. is a wonder how the
Lord makes us ready before time to be
able to stand in the time of sorrow &
troubles. wish you a Peaceful Christmas
& a blessed New year. May come to you
full of heavenly help & comfort. he is
the best to comfort broken hearts. our human
help bring more sorrow. I am sure you will
remember me. but the same wish to Mrs Spear
though she do not know who I am.
yours in deep sympathy.

Esther Abraham, Widow of late Deacon
Joseph Armenia Russia Abraham

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OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 17TH AND K STREETS, N. W.

METROPOLITAN 2102

MISS HETTIE P. ANDERSON
GENERAL SECRETARY

Wm.

September 26, 1934

Mrs. Robert E. Speer
National Board, Y.W.C.A.
600 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

My dear Mrs. Speer:

Although you may be burdened at this time with letters from your friends all over the world, the members of the staff of the Washington Association want to add their note of love for you and keen sympathy for you and your family. We feel, as one of our secretaries expressed it, that the one consoling thought is that you and Dr. Speer know how to meet and to triumph over such sorrow.

Sincerely yours,

Hettie P. Anderson

Hettie P. Anderson
General Secretary

618

J. FRANK ADAMS
MOUNT UNION, PENNSYLVANIA

September 17. 1934

Dear Rob:

We were greatly shocked to read
in this morning's paper of Elliott's
untimely death.

You and all the family have
our heartfelt Sympathy.

Sincerely

Frank.

618

Philadelphia, Sept. 17, 1934.

Dear Doctor Speer:

Because of my love of many years, I venture to intrude upon your sorrow, that I may express to you and Mrs. Speer my deep sympathy.

I pray that God may abundantly comfort you and all of your family.

Yours in His fellowship,

W. B. Anderson.

AS

Carter Memorial Assyrian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
56 WEST HURON ST.
CHICAGO, ILL.

Oct. 16: 1934.

My dear Dr. Spear:

With much sorrow of heart we heard from Dr. F. G. Coan of the tragedy of the death of your beloved son Elliott.

Death truly is a very bitter rod to all mankind. But we as Christian men and women, can thank God even at the presence of death. For though it may separate us from our loved ones in body, however; one thing we are sure, that it cannot separate us from our heavenly Father's love which is in Christ Jesus. in that love heaven and earth are united.

May the Lord help you in this your dark hour to hear His voice saying, "It is I, be not afraid."

Very sincerely yours,
Haidow Ablahat.

6052 GRAFTON STREET
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

My Dear Mrs. Spear: —

May I offer my very sincere
Sympathy in the great sorrow that
has come to you — Words are en-
tirely inadequate —

September 24 —

L. M. Allen

ack. 9/24.
ack. 17.

Box 51.

New Dep.

Station Island.
by.

Sunday 16th.

Dear D^r and M^r Speer.

In the paper last night-

I read the shocking news of
Elliot's death. I cannot tell
you how distressed I am for
you are in this terribly
sudden tragedy. It is so
hard to understand why
such a cruel thing has

happened to you,

I am quite unable to express
the sorrow I feel, but hope you
will accept my most sincere
sympathy in your loss of
such a splendid son.

Very sincerely & affectionately

Joelyn Abernethy

Elders

W. C. HOCH, CLERK
H. B. MANN
JOSEPH RUPP
A. H. MERRIN

67

First Presbyterian Church
Delta, Ohio

A. Hudson Arrick, D. D., Minister

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NOBLE THOMAS

September 22, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Our hearts go out in sympathy for you and your family, at the tragic taking away of your son. We can but wonder why one whose life of service here had scarcely just begun should be thus cut off; but surely God had a larger usefulness for him, and though he be dead, his influence over the student body will speak greater things.

We feel all the more keenly for you in your sorrow, because our own mother, Mrs. Snider, who was with us at Winona Lake, went home, soon after our return; but she had reached the ripe age of 96 years, and peacefully slept away. She had always been interested in your work and counted it a privilege to have met you and have heard you. I am sure in that brighter world she will know and appreciate your son.

I am inclosing a little booklet, which has brought comfort to myself and others; if it can help in any small way to bring some comfort to you, I shall be glad, though you know so well where comfort is found.

Mrs. Arrick joins me in deepest sympathy.

Yours most sincerely,

A. Hudson Arrick

W3

THEODORE H. ASZMAN
MINISTER • DIRECTOR

ANNA C. OLINGER
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

MARY W. COE
SECRETARY



First Presbyterian Church
AND THE
Westminster
Student Foundation

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Oct. 5, 1934



Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

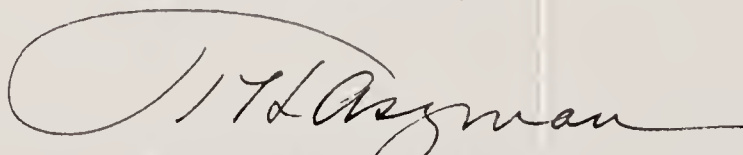
My dear Dr. Speer:

Hoping that I may not be thrusting clumsy but well meaning fingers into heart strings that have been made sore through bereavement, I want to express a heart felt sympathy to you and Mrs. Speer in the tragic death of your son Eliot.

I have just read your sermon in the Christian Century Pulpit and have had my faith strengthened in its certain, clear note. It prompted me to write you this note realizing that yours is a faith that sustains in deepest pain and triumphs through darkest sorrows.

Please do not feel called upon to answer.

Most sincerely,


Theodore H. Aszman



BREWSTER TRANSPORT COMPANY
LIMITED

Dear Dr. Speer:—

Mrs. Apple & I have been travelling almost continuously for the past month, & this is practically my first opportunity to write you since the tragic death of your son. From the shock experienced by the entire civilized world there has no doubt come to you & your family ~~an~~ unanimous wave of sympathy.

Permit Mrs. Apple & me to join in this universal & heartfelt sympathy to you all.

May the Heavenly Father soothe and sustain you in this hour of greatest sorrow.

With united sympathy & warmest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

October second. Jos. H. Apple

514

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EUROPEAN

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CLARKESVILLE, GA., HABERSHAM COUNTY

ON THE ATLANTA-ASHEVILLE SHORT LINE HIGHWAY

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All Modern Conveniences

CLARKESVILLE, GEORGIA

Sept. 17th 34.

My dear Dr. Speer,

I just stopped here long enough
to express to you, Mrs. Speer and your son
my deep and genuine sympathy in the
tragic death of your son.

Knowing the wonderful Faith of you
all, I know how you have been ~~exalted~~
sustained in these hours of your
great bereavement.

Words are inadequate for me to
express myself as I would love to.

Anyhow I had to let you know I
have been thinking much of you and
yours at this time.

May you all realize as never before

the Reality of Christ's presence and
the sufficiency of God's Grace.
Don't bother to answer this note
as I am moving constantly.

Yours in Christ's service,
George H. Atkinson.

674

Lutheran Theological Seminary

Gettysburg, Pa.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

JOHN ABERLY, D.D.

PRESIDENT OF THE SEMINARY

September 17, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I want to express to you my sincere sympathy in the tragedy that brought to its earthly close the work of your talented son. It was a great shock not only to me but to all of your friends here at the Seminary, of whom you have a large number. One realizes how little one can do to help to bear the burdens of others at times like this, but if sincere sympathy can in any way help you I want to assure you that that is expressed on all sides.

With kind regards and all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

JA/CFB

John Aberly

518

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
ALEXANDER ALISON, JR., D.D., MINISTER

Sept 17, 1934

My dear Dr. Speer,

Permit me to join your
many friends in expressing sincerest sym-
pathy to you and your loved ones in
the bitter trial through which you are
passing. Were it possible the heart
of the whole Church would keep you
bear the burden of sorrow -

Faithfully Yours,

Alexander Alison

Ans
Q. 10

629 N. Ardmore Ave
Los Angeles
Sept. 30. '34.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Spear.

Dear Christian Friend -

I have been attending
the School of Missions this
past week so perhaps that
is why I missed seeing
in the paper of your sad
loss. I was shocked when
the Board letter came
and hasten to write to

let you know of my
prayers and sympathy.
This to you I know will
mean a great battle and
victory in His name; a
new experience of His love
and sympathy.

You will have many letters,
do not trouble to answer
them. I do not want it to
add to your burdens

Yr. Sincerely

Hand Allen

40
WM. B. ALLISON
1803 CAMPUS ROAD
EAGLE ROCK, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Sep. 15, 1934

My Dear Dr. Speer:-

Mrs. Allison and I were horrified, on opening the morning paper, to read the notice of the great sorrow that has come to your family.

We have no words with which to adequately express to you how deeply we feel for you at this time, but we want you and yours to know that you have our heartfelt sympathy.

Only the God of all comfort can Himself give you that deeper solace for which the soul longs at a time like this, and we know that both you and yours have long since learned to seek this in the secret of His presence.

Our hearts ache for you.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. B. Allison", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

80

Mrs. Grosby Adams
The House - in - the - Woods
Montreat, North Carolina

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Northfield Massachusetts:

My dear Dr. Speer:

We, who are on the outer rim of the hosts of
people of all lands who call you friend, wish to
send a word to you and yours. We are in New England
for our holiday this year. When the tragic news of
the shooting of your dear son Elliott flashed across
the country we were en route to Pittsfield Massachusetts
to attend the Maine Festival at South Mountain. We
felt like dispatching a wire that very day but it
seemed an intrusion. Now that those of the
inner circle must have sent their messages, we
wish you to know that no two of the newer
friends extend more deeply sincere and prayerful
sympathy than the two from Montreat.

Mr. and Mrs. Grosby Adams
will return home September 21st
next week.

1934

ack. 1/14/35. 2 East 86 St.

Oct. 14, 1934.

Dear Mrs. Speer:

I want to send to
you and your family my
most profound sympathy
in this hour of your
tragic bereavement.

I pray God to give you
courage to bear this heavy
loss —

Always affectionately yours.

Mary L. John Atkey
(Mrs. Care)

Wm. A. H.



BRIARCLIFF LODGE HOTEL

BRIARCLIFF MANOR

NEW YORK

My dear Mrs. Speer,

If only there were some special word for conveying to you the great ache of sympathy which is in the hearts of all your friends just now, the one I long to say is deep and sincere: I love you — for all the countless ways you have been a blessing to me in the past, and for that rare and beautiful spirit which is taking this most startling sorrow with such gallant quiet peace. With God so near, and your spirit touching the divine, I know the everlasting arms are very real, and all you

need; but from a very new
acquaintance who feels deeply
stirred comes this little word of
tender sympathy and the
heartfelt prayer that God may
indeed bless you daily, at
every turn.

With warm affection,
Ever most faithfully yours
Margaret T. Applegarth

October 9, 1934.

578
THE FILIPINO STUDENTS' CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

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September 17, 1934.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer,
24 Gramercy Park,
New York City

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

I have read of the unfortunate event that took
away from your family circle your son, Mr. Elliott Speer.
On behalf of our association and my own, please accept our
sincere sympathy in the loss that your family has sustained
in the passing away of your son.

Very sincerely yours,


Manuel A. Adeva

MAA/r

018

Fourth Presbyterian Church
Chicago

F. Spear

CHURCH OFFICE
126 E. CHESTNUT STREET
SUPERIOR 8450

SEP 17 1904

my dear ~~friend~~:-

Just as this letter was to be
mailed our papers carry the tragic
story about your sons death.

You know that our hearts
are with you. We will bear you
up before the Throne of grace. The
who has walked by your side
so many years is little now -
we like unto the Son of Man -
But the matter in the other letter

Go until you can answer up
in the meantime - God's Peace
yours in Christ Jesus
sat afternoon Ray Anderson

018

MACALESTER COLLEGE
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

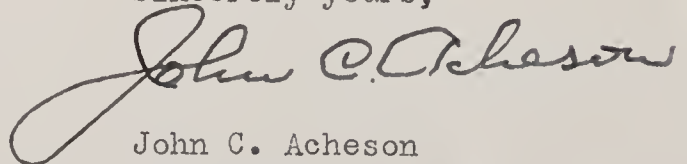
September 24, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Secretary, Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Mrs. Acheson and I were greatly
grieved to hear of the death of your son,
Elliott, and extend to you our deep sympathy
in this great bereavement. We do not need
to point you to the great source of comfort
in such an affliction for you already know
well the only source from which real consola-
tion can come. Our prayers and hearts are
with you and Mrs. Speer.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John C. Acheson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "J" that extends under the first part of the name.

John C. Acheson
President

886

ALFRED WILLIAMS ANTHONY
40 MOUNTAIN AVENUE
LEWISTON MAINE

Sept. 23, 1934

My dear Dr. Spear, -

I have been stunned.

It seems so awful.

But you, I know, have the Only
Refuge and Comfort there is. It is a
well-worn path for your feet and
for the habits of your mind and
heart.

The Good Father has you and
your family in His loving care.

Do not answer this word. I
have no need or wish. It is of
you, I am thinking -

Sincerely yours

Alfred Williams Anthony

51/ Edward W Abbey

EDWARD W. ABBEY, D. D.
SMITHTOWN BRANCH
LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

OCT 9 1884

Oct. 9, '34.

Ans. _____

My dear Dr. Spur:

At a meeting of our Session last evening, we were talking of you and your sorrows. One and all of its members desired that I would express their sympathy to you, as well as their appreciation of the great service you have been and are to the cause of our Lord.

This, I gladly do, and add my own personal word, having failed to see you in your office some weeks ago. My own sorrows are great in these days. After fifty-seven years of unsurpassed happiness in an unbroken home with wife and two sons, the wife and mother left us for a time, and though her visible presence is no longer

here, she is waiting for us up yonder. It is awfully lonesome here after such a long, loving, sympathetic companionship. She just fell asleep, as we all held hands together -. But, your separation from your son! I should say no further word. But this, dear Dr., conveys my heart-felt understanding and sympathy.

Life is worth living, if we can have such a job as you and I have, and such a Christian outlook for the hereafter.

Most sincerely,

Edward W. Abbey -

22nd - Cambridge to
GH / Photo



Sept 16, 1934

White Mountains :: Bethlehem, N. H.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
New York City.

My Dear Speer: - I have
just read in The Herald-
Tribune of the Catastrophe
that has happened to your
son and hasten to send
you my deep and
sincere sympathy,
as we have a son
about his age.

Allow me to remind
you that "They that trust
in the Lord shall be
as Mount Zion, which
can not be removed
but abideth forever"

Ps 125:1.

Most heartily and sadly
yours. Wilson Aull.

Princeton 91

911
The Salvation Army
120-130 West 14th Street
New York, N. Y.

BRIGADIER JOHN J. ALLAN

September 17, 1934

Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Speer,
24 Gramercy Park,
New York City.

My dear Mr. & Mrs. Speer:-

It is with deep regret
that we note the passing away of your
beloved son.

On behalf of Commander
Evangeline C. Booth also Commissioner
John McMillan, our leaders, I am desired
to convey to you and the remaining loved
ones their tender sympathy in the great
loss you have sustained.

In the hour of your
bereavement our prayers follow you, and
we shall continue to bear you before the
Throne in petition for comforting and
sustaining grace to be your portion in
the days to come.

May God abundantly bless
you, and comfort your hearts always.

Yours very sincerely,


John J. Allan,
Brigadier.

A:G.

GM
TWO WEST FORTY-SIXTH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Dear Dr. Spier,

Many will write expressing sorrow - but we all know that no earthly friend or combination of friends can share your deep sorrow - words are so futile.

In my home and here in the office there have been constant expressions of deep sympathy for you and Mrs Spier because both of you have been near and dear to us. There is also a deep sense of personal bereavement - as though some one in our own family had met with this tragedy.

Accept our tenderest sympathy. We share your sense of tragic loss.

Sincerely yours,

Barclay Acheson

Sept 18th
'34.

TAB

ack.

Dear Mrs. Speer.

There are no
words to tell you
and your husband
how our hearts
just ache for
you -

We and I feel
the kindest love
tell you of our

Is something to help you
all

affectionately
Thomas B. Andrews

England
spoken for the twentieth -

Deep sympathy
for the do not
want to intrude.

What had done
such wonderful
work in this
life and the end
of such a man
is hard to understand
He both send
for our deepest
love and sympathy
wish for could

WS
MRS. CHARLES ARTHUR SPEER
415 WEST JEFFERSON STREET
WASHINGTON, IOWA

Dear Cousin Robert:-

Please do not -
think because you have not - heard
from us since the - tragedy in your
family. that - we are heartless or
insincere. We were shocked when the -
news reached us through the - Associated
Press. of the - death - of your son.

We waited, thinking that - after - the -
excitement had subsided - and everyone
seemed to have forgotten, that - it -
might - help more for you to know that
we, in Washington, are standing by.
our hearts heavy with grief and sympathy.
Sincerely, - Charles Arthur & Myrtle E.
John & Louise Speer.

Am
Sept. 30

Sept. 7, 1935

My dear Dr. Spear, -

Many, many times
have you been in my mind, with
tender sympathy, as I have thought of
you and some of your perils.
But you have "carried on" with such
bravery and strength that I have
admired, and have scarcely been
able to pity, or express thoughts
of sympathy.

The turn of your year, - with
a birthday in sight. - does en-
folden me to send a line of
good wishes and affectionate re-
gards. My love and congratulations
go out to you. Sincerely yours
Alfred Williams Anthony

ack.

79 DANA PLACE

ENGLEWOOD

NEW JERSEY

Dear Mrs. Sprue,

I am so very, very sorry
for you all. Please let me
know if there is any thing
I can do for you. You
know how difficult it is
for old friends to say what
is in their heart.

Sincerely,

Helene A. B.

15 September 1934

687

THE MANSE
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

September 17.

Dear Dr. Steer:

My heart goes out to you in this hour of sorrow. And my prayer is that the Master whom you have served will be very near to you now and always. I knew Elton when he was at Lafayette and when my daughters were at Monticello. He did good work here. I know he will do good work in that "form of the endless life" which he now knows.

Janette sends her love to you and bids me tell you that you are much in her heart, as you are in mine.

Truly yours,

W. E. Brown

ack

Sept. 28.

MRS. EDWIN M. BULKLEY
WALNUT STREET
ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

My dear Emma -

I think of you
so constantly - I must send a
few lines - I hope you are not
overwhelmed with letters - all
that happened two weeks ago
still seems incredible to me!
I'm afraid you and Rob are
realizing it in so many ways.
What a comfort it was that
Bill was with you.
Dear Elliott and Holly - both

so brave and strong - and having
to bear this perfectly unnecessary
separation.

1. It seemed as if that
the "schools" were going splendidly
forward - with a great deal
accomplished towards the read-
justments which were necessary
and all the conditions so
much improved that Elliott
and Holly would have a
happy and cheerful winter.

I can't tell you what we
feel for you and Rob - you
have the little girls - a hint, of

MRS. EDWIN M. BULKLEY
WALNUT STREET
ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Elliott left to you! What a world
in which to live... and I'm sure
you dread the future for Holly -
wisdom and courage we all
need - and how great the need
just now!

This just instead of a Land
class. This bright morning... don't
worry - and I shall look you
up in town as soon as you
come down. It has been a
great comfort to find a letter to Rob.

Most Lovingly Lucy.

adm.

Mrs. Lester D. Brown

ack.

Sept. 24th, 1934

My dear Mrs. Speer:-

I have
hesitated to write, fearing
to intrude upon you
in this hour of your
tragic loss. But may
Sayard's mother extend
to you all her deepest
sympathy.

Faithfully yours
Anna K. Bell.

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR163 23 4 EXTRA XC=EASTORANGE. NJ 15 755P

REV DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER AND MRS ELLIOTT SPEER=

M THERMAN NORTHFIELD MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

DAY LETTER

DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND MY PRAYERS IN YOUR SUDDEN AND TERRIBLE
BEREAVEMENT GOD GRACIOUSLY COMFORT AND SUSTAIN ALL OF YOU=

HARRY L BOWLBY.

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Received at

GR43 25 DL=VN BRONXVILLE NY SEP 16 950A

WILLIAM SPEER=

MATHERMON SCHOOL NORTHFIELD MASS=

YOU AND YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER ARE CONSTANTLY IN OUR
THOUGHTS MAY GOD BLESS YOU RICHLY IN THIS TIME OF GREAT
NEED WITH DEVOTED AFFECTION=

MARGARET AND HOWARD BEMENT.

1056A

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

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Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR43 33 7 EXTRA=HARRISBURG PENN SEP 15 1021A

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

EASTNOTHFIELD MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

DEEPLY DISTRESSED TO LEARN OF TRAGEDY MOTHER AND FATHER
AWAY BUT WILL COMMUNICATE WITH THEM AND IF ANY OF US CAN
HELP PLEASE LET ME KNOW=

GEORGE BAILEY

1604 NORTH 2 ST.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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Ship Radiogram

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Received at

,NBK84 18 5 EXTRA=WILLIAMSPORT PENN 16 VIA METHERMON MASS 17

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

ROCKLEDGE LAKEVILLE CONN=

YOU AND YOURS HAVE OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY MAY GOD COMFORT
AND STRENGTHEN YOU=

DAVID DEFOREST BURRELL.

336P

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223S

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LCO = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Letter

WLT = Week-End Letter

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

NY 184 184 NL VIA MS=EASTORANGE NJ SEP 15

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

LAKEVILLE CONN=

OUR HEARTS ARE FULL OF DEEPEST SYMPATHY FOR YOU AND YOURS
IN YOUR GREAT SORROW AND LOSS MAY GOD SUSTAIN AND COMFORT
YOU AND GRANT THE PEACE YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO OTHERS IN THEIR
TIMES OF GREAT BEREAVEMENT MY LOVE TO YOU=

BOB BEATTY.

1406P.

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR73 9 3 EXTRA=UD ELPASO TEX VIA MS NEWYORK NY SEP 15

ROBERT E SPEER=

CARE MRS ELLIOTT SPEER METHERMON MASS=

TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

DEEPEST SYMPATHY IN YOUR GREAT SORROW=

FRANK W BIBLE.

1219P.

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR88 35 XC=EAGLESMERE PENN SEP 15 1226P

MRS ROBERT SPEER=

:MATHERMON SCHOOL NORTHFIELD MASS=

:TELEGRAM JUST RECEIVED WE ARE SHOCKED AND DISTRESSED YOU
AND ROBB HAVE OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND LOVE GOD MOVES IN
MYSTERIOUS WAYS BUT WE KNOW IT IS FOR OUR GOOD SORRY WE
CANNOT JOIN YOU=

ELIZABETH AND EDWARD BAILEY.

1253P

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

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LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR57 11=PHILADELPHIA PENN SEP 15 1106A

MRS ROBERT F SPEER=

EASTNORTHFIELD MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

CAROLINE AND I SEND DEEPEST LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO YOU ALL=

JIM. 101P

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

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NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR142 60 DL=PHILADELPHIA PENN SEP 15 508P

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

NORTHFIELD MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER
-----------	------------

WORDS ARE SO FUTILE WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP AS I KNOW THE ROAD
ONLY TOO WELL WILL BE UNABLE TO COME ON DUE TO MIGNON BEING
ILL STOP HOWEVER ADDRESS CARE LIEUT W W ORR MARINE OFFICERS
QUARTERS NAVY YARD IF I CAN BE OF USE DEVOTED LOVE AND DEEPEST
SYMPATHY TO YOU UNCLE ROB AND YOUR FAMILY=

ANNETTE.

526P

RECEIVED AT

85 MAIN ST.

SEP 15 1934 TORRINGTON, CONN.

STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial
Cables



All America
Cables

Mackay

Radio

This is a full rate Telegram, Cablegram or Radiogram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

Form
16

1934 SEP 15 PM 4 40

.D12 22 RELAY VIA FV=TD HARRISBURG PENN 15 333P

DR AND MRS ROBERT SPEER=

LAKEVILLE CONN=

I HAVE JUST SEEN NEWSPAPER AM SHOCKED OVER DREADFUL NEWS ABOUT
ELLIOTT SUCH A TERRIBLE BLOW STOP MY LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY=
ALGER.

Postal Telegraph



Telephone Your Telegrams to **Postal Telegraph**

RECEIVED AT _____

STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial
Cables



All America
Cables

Mackay

Radio

This is a full rate Telegram, Cablegram or Radiogram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
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LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

Form
16

HD21 17 3 EXTRA=ROME GA VIA FV NEWYORK NY 17 1934 SEP 17 PM 12 51

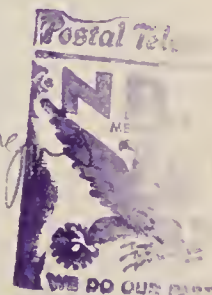
MR AND MRS ROBERT SPEER=

LAKEVILLE CONN=



HEARTFELT SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS FROM BERRY FACULTY AND STUDENTS
GREAT LOSS TO EDUCATIONAL WORLD=
MARTHA BERRY.

NO. _____ TO Mrs Thomas Wagner
BY J AT 1:35 P TO BE Wanted
CALLS _____



Telephone Your Telegrams to **Postal Telegraph**

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Received at 19 Dean Street, Englewood, N. J.

NAC176 11=CLEVELAND OHIO SEP 17 325P

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

ENGLEWOOD NJ=

LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY FROM THE CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
CLEVELAND=

PHILIP SMEAD BIRD.

336P

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

am

"Lakes Crest" - "

Podus Point - New York.

Our dear friends -

He are

Shocked beyond words

by the news of

This morning -

Our love and

deepest sympathy

are with you all -

and our thoughts -

May Ann Father's
presence be with
you constantly -
Ann love is with
each one -
Carrie Parker Perry.

Sunday Evening -
September 21st 1884.

ABBOT ACADEMY
ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Spier,
I am overwhelmed with
honors and with grief
at the news in tonight's
paper, and my heart
aches for you, and
for Elliott's wife and
Children.

Why are such things
permitted to happen?

May you be comforted

and sustained in this
great sorrow!

Please express my sym-
pathy to Mrs. Elliott
- Speer.

With warm affections
and sincere sorrow,

Faithfully yours,

Bessie Bailey

September 15, 1934

M

The Hartford Seminary Foundation
Hartford, Connecticut

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 19, 1984

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Let me add just one more word of heartfelt sympathy in this baffling tragedy which has come into your family.

We can only give thanks for the rich service which had been given and rely upon God's goodness to show us light through the darkness of sorrow.

Faithfully yours,

Robbins W. Barstow

ROBBINS WOLCOTT BARSTOW

67

185 East 33rd Street
Paterson, New Jersey
September 19, 1934

Dear Mr. Speer,

The whole Christian world has felt the sting of the tragic death of your son and the consequent grief that has come to you. My own membership here has been shocked. They would want me to express their deep sympathy, along with my own, for you and your family. We need not say anything to you about the burial which is necessary and sustaining where understanding and knowledge fail. We know your faith which will stand until the day breaks and the shadows flee away. Meantime our prayer is that God's grace may be sufficient.

Dear Robert: These thoughts have comforted me in times of bereavement. I know that they comfort you and Mrs. Speer. Arthur

What Is the Christian's Death?

A Meditation for the Time of Bereavement

Rev. Arthur Judson Brown, D. D., New York

What is the Christian's death? Human speculation might be unprofitable. We turn to the only authority that we have, the Word of God. There we find the meaning of the Christian's death expressed under various figures. We may refer to four that are most helpful and comforting.

ASLEEP IN JESUS. Paul uses this figure in 1 Thessalonians 4.14:

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

It is natural to think of death as a sleep. How calm and peaceful is the face of the loved one! The lines of toil and care are smoothed out. Every appearance indicates repose, and that "there the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary be at rest," Job 3.17.

But the figure should not be pressed too far. The bodily appearance may look like sleep, but the spirit is not unconscious. The repose is not inertia. That is not only incompatible with other figures presently to be noted, but with this one also, for it is a sleep in Jesus, and Jesus is alive, intensely alive and active. No one asleep in Jesus can be in oblivion. Rather does this figure suggest freedom from the strain and fever of our

earthly life, the absence of fear and restless craving. All faculties are alert, but in perfect equilibrium.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning beautifully wrote:

Of all the thoughts of God that are
Borne inward into souls afar

Along the psalmist's music deep,
Now tell me if that any is
For gift or grace surpassing this:
"He giveth his beloved—sleep."

What would we give to our beloved,
The hero's heart to be unmoved,

The poet's star-tuned harp to sweep,
The patriot's voice to teach and rouse,
The monarch's crown to light and brows?
"He giveth his beloved—sleep!"

His dew drops mutely on the hill,
His cloud above it saileth still,

Though on its slope men sow and reap:
More softly than the dew is shed,
Or cloud is floated overhead,
"He giveth his beloved—sleep."

Aye, men may wonder while they scan
A living, thinking, feeling man

Confirmed in such a rest to keep;
But angels say,—and through the word
I think their happy smile is heard,—
"He giveth his beloved—sleep"!

DEPARTURE. We find this figure in Paul's second Epistle to Timothy 4.6:

"The time of my departure is come."

The figure in the Greek word for "departure" literally means "to pull up anchor and set sail." How many of us feel that we are anchored to earth, held down by chains of habit or environment, restrained by ties that are difficult to break! Death breaks these chains. The ship is freed from its anchor. It spreads its sails to the

winds of heaven and sails forth to the heavenly port where, as Paul said, "there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing," 2 Timothy 4.8. Have we not looked for it and longed for it? And when we have pulled up anchor and set sail the longing has become a wondrous reality. The redeemed soul can say with Tennyson:

And may there be no moaning of the bar

When I put out to sea,

. . . no sadness of farewell

When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place

The flood may bear me far,

I hope to meet my Pilot face to face

When I have crossed the bar.

EXODUS. We read in Luke 9.28-31 that when our Lord was transfigured on the mountain "there talked with him two men, who were Moses and Elijah; who appeared in glory and spake of his decease which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem."

The same word is used in 2 Peter 1.15: "I will give diligence that at every time ye may be able after my decease to call these things to remembrance."

The word "decease" is here used in the sense of exodus, a going out. Perhaps the reference is to the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt. To the believer death is the way out of bondage into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. The soul leaves behind the pain and sorrow of earth, temptation and sin, and is emancipated into the wide spaces of the heavenly land where, in the splendid imagery of Isaiah 40.31, "they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."

TABERNACLE DISSOLVED. Paul uses this figure in 2 Corinthians 5.1:

"We know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Tabernacle is a stately, dignified word, but its stateliness and dignity tend to obscure its meaning. A tabernacle is simply a tent, and a tent suggests a journey and a temporary shelter. At the end of a hard day the wearied traveler pitches his tent. In the morning he takes it down and sets forth on the journey of another day. Thus day after day he toils on, sometimes through green pastures and beside still waters, sometimes over sandy deserts and rocky steepes, weary and footsore as the months pass. But he is sustained by the consciousness of divine guidance. At last he arrives at the end of his pilgrimage. The tent, now worn and weakened by long use and exposure to the elements, is discarded, and the pilgrim enters not now a fragile, temporary habitation, but "a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." In the journey through this earthly life Paul says that "we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened," 2 Corinthians 5.4, but in the heavenly habitation all this is over. John tells us that he "heard a great voice out of the throne, saying, God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying, nor pain any more: the first things are passed away," Revelation 21. 3, 4. No more is the traveler confined to a small tent, for, as the Lord told his disciples, "In my Father's house are many mansions," John 14.2. There is room, ample room for all. And when a loved one who has been with us on the winding trail of life leaves this earthly tent we feel as Thomas Lewis, a British missionary in Africa, felt as he stood beside the

coffined body of one of his associates:

"You and I have journeyed long. We have been led by different paths, for we have not always traveled in company. But by God's grace we have been brought together today to our last camping place. The trail has been a long one, and the difficulties numerous. You and I have pitched our tents together many a time in that land we love so well, and we have come to the parting of the ways once more. As for you, my friend, your camping days are over! We are not going to pitch our tent tonight. You do not need it, for you have traveled far on the king's highway, and it has pleased him to call you home. You have entered into that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. You have reached the king's country, and the guests of the eternal are homed in palaces, not tents. As for that frail tent in which you tabernacled amongst us, we have brought it along with us. Loving hands have folded it up and perfumed it with the tears of their hearts. We will put it aside carefully and reverently in its last resting-place, not that you will need it again, but simply because it is yours."

As for us who remain for a time, "we shall press on the best we can on the same old trail," each of us like Peter, "knowing that the putting off of our tabernacle cometh swiftly," 2 Peter 1. 14.

HEAVEN

Loved ones who have gone before await us. Dr. William E. Parton wrote after the death of his wife:

"Now there will come a day when I also shall ascend the stair that slopeth upward from this mortal world to that which is above. And I know that she will be listening for my coming. Yea, and she will not altogether wait for me inside the gate: for I shall hear her footstep coming a

little way down to meet me, and we shall go in together."

"Now I saw in my dream," said Bunyan in his immortal allegory, "that these two men went in at the gate, and lo! as they entered they were transfigured, and they had raiment put on that shone like gold. There were also that met them with harps and crowns, and gave them to them; the harps to praise withal, and the crowns in token of honor. Then I heard in my dream that all the bells in the city rang again for joy, and that it was said unto them: Enter ye into the joy of our Lord! Now, just as the gates were opened to let in the men I looked in after them, and behold, the city shone like the sun! The streets also were paved with gold, and in them walked many men with crowns on their heads, palms in their hands, and golden harps to sing praises withal. There were also of them that had wings, and they answered one another without intermission, saying, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord! And after that they shut up the gates: which when I had seen I wished myself among them."

Doubtless the death of a believer is even more rich in meaning than these figures suggest. Dante wrote of his vision of Paradise:

. . . What I saw
Was not for words to speak, nor memory's
self
To stand against such outrage on her skill.

One universal smile it seem'd of all things,
Joy past compare, gladness unutterable,
Imperishable life of peace and love,
Exhaustless riches and unmeasured bliss.

. . . O speech,
How feeble and how faint art thou to give
Conception birth!

And so the Christian is not to fear death, and his loved ones are not to sorrow "even as the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also

that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with him," 1 Thessalonians 4. 13, 14.

The life beyond is sure, real, and full of joyful effort. When Robert Burdette lay on his death bed in Southern California, he said:

"I watch the sunset as I look out over the rim of the blue Pacific, and there is no mystery beyond the horizon line, because I know what there is over there. I have been there. I have journeyed in those lands. Over there where the sun is just sinking is Japan. That star is rising over China. In that direction lie the Philippines. I know all that. Well, there is another land that I look toward as I watch the sunset! I have never seen it. I have never seen any one who has been there, but it has a more abiding reality than any of these lands which I do know. This land beyond the sunset, this land of immortality, this fair and blessed country of the soul, why, this heaven of ours is the one thing in the world which I know with absolute, unshaken, unchangeable certainty! This

I know with a knowledge that is never shadowed by a passing cloud of doubt. I may not always be certain about this world; my geographical locations may sometimes become confused; but the other world—that I know. And as the afternoon sun sinks lower faith shines more clearly, and hope, lifting her voice in a higher key, sings the songs of fruition. My work is about ended, I think. The best of it I have done poorly; any of it I might have done better; but I have done it, and in a fairer land with finer material and a better working light I will do better work."

In the cheer of this thought and in the glory of the exceeding great and precious promises of God we say to those who stand beside their dead:

"Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God even our Father, who hath loved us and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and stablish you in every good word and work!" (2 Thessalonians 2. 16, 17).

Reprinted from

RECORD OF CHRISTIAN WORK

THE NORTHFIELD MONTHLY MAGAZINE

(Subscriptions \$2 yearly)

EAST NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Additional copies of this pamphlet:

3 cents each postpaid; 10 or more

to one address 2 cents each postpaid.

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R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
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Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR66 42 DL=SANTAFE NMEX SEP 16 1029A

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

=NORTHFIELD MASS

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

HAVE JUST HEARD OF TRAGIC EVENT OUR HEART AND SYMPATHY GO
OUT TO YOU IN YOUR SORROW ELIOTS DEATH IS A GREAT LOSS TO
THE WORLD FOR HE WAS DOING A SPLENDID WORK ALICE JOINS ME
IN SENDING YOU LOVE AND SYMPATHY=

=ELEANOR BROWNELL.

156P

*Auto C. P. H.
Sept. 15*

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
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Received at

GR63 9=RDJC WOODSTOCK VT SEP 16 1246P

MR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEAR=

NORTHFIELD MASS=

MOST SINCERE AND DEEP SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOURS=

ELIZA R BUTLER.

153P

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

*ack.
WBS
cert. 15^m*

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Spurr:

I am too shocked & grieved over the tragic passing of Albert, & even more concerned about you & his little family. Be sure you rest all constantly upon my heart through these cruel days.

"Gods in His Name,

Altho' caught with the world, - if
we look deep enough, we long much -
especially long enough. Twenty-five years
are only a beginning. I am not by any
means done for ever is unfolding, but
the design of the eternal will hold when
the final curtain is being drawn.

Meanwhile, one more face over
on the other side. What cannot return to
you, but you will go to him, and I
don't not see a moment he will be
waiting for you at the gate.

With my love & deepest
sympathy,

Most sincerely,

Wm. L. Burleigh

Friday morning
Wichita, Kansas.

THE MANSE
SALEM, NEW JERSEYSeptember 24th 1934

Dear Dr. Speer,

We have suffered with you and Mrs. Speer. As parents, we can at least imagine the grief and the loneliness you feel. What hopes must have centered in Elliott for the future! What pride you had in his fine strong Christian life! My brother George was in his class when he was graduated from Princeton in 1921. We grieve for the wife, who must be overcome, and the little girls.

Knowing your resources of faith,

I am sure you are meeting even so crushing a blow, not only bravely, but patiently. I was reading the life of Moses. "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth."

THE MANSE
SALEM, NEW JERSEY

Was not his meekness, his faith-ful patience the result of bearing blow after blow? Through his patience, he was able to lead Israel, he was able to walk with God: "There arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face."

Much as we grieve for you, we shall expect you, by God's grace, to be the stronger and the tenderer for the sake of Christ's cause among us.

As for Elliott, I know you and his mother and his wife are seeing him with God's "name", his likeness, in his "forehead", seeing His face, among His servants who have the supreme unfettered joy of serving Him perfectly.

May He grant you to be strengthened by His Spirit... that Christ may dwell in your hearts that ye may be able to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge.

THE MANSE
SALEM, NEW JERSEY

With the assurance of our continuing
sympathy.

Yours affectionately,

Alison Reid Brya

212 SCOTLAND ROAD,
SOUTH ORANGE.

My Dear Dr. Starr.

Mr. Barr and I feel we must let you know how much we were affected by the great-sorrow that has come to you and your family by the tragic death of your son.

We wonder why our Heavenly Father allows such apparent waste of such a useful and beautiful life; and supplies our own, by the loss and grief it brings to so many. For him it is far better, and he has been called to greater usefulness and blessedness. Perhaps he has met my beloved Brother, who so loved the

children of his dear friends.

I am thinking of you with
understanding sympathy and
a prayer God will comfort you.

Sincerely yours

Annie Grant David

September twenty fifth

67

35 Lafayette Drive
Atlanta, Ga
September 16, 1934

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

It was certainly a shock to read the notice in the newspaper yesterday of the Tragedy which befell Elliott, and I want to express to each of you my deepest sympathy in your bereavement. Though I hardly knew him, I certainly enjoyed and have always remembered most pleasantly the several visits we made to Northfield and the few

minutes that I was in his home.

Mother is not well these days and she has asked me to tell you that she joins with you in your distress over your loss, and as you possibly know, Aunt Susan - Mrs. Eagan - is still in England, but I send you all her sympathy for I know she will feel very deeply your sorrow when she hears of it.

Very sincerely

Paul F. Brown, Jr

67

EAST NORTHFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Robert;
I must not burden you with words
at such a time. How inadequate they are at best.
I can only say that we are keeping you and Mrs.
Speer and Holly in our hearts and prayers. Mrs.
Brown and Eleanor join me in constant in-
tercession for you and them. "Now our Lord
Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our
Father, who hath loved us and hath given
us everlasting consolation and good hope
through ^{grace,} comfort your hearts." "Underneath are
the everlasting arms," and they do not fail me in
the time of our utter need.
Ever affectionately,
Arthur

429 North Church Street
West Chester, Penna.

9-15-1934

My dear Cousins
Robert & Emma Spurr,

I have just
read in the paper of a
very terrible sorrow that
has come to you. The
notice told nothing but
the awful fact and it
seems as if it could not
be true. Words seem so

It surely is one of the things we
cannot understand.

With very sincere love
Your cousin

Mary H. Bailey

empty when I try to
express what I feel. I never
have met your son Elliott
but through George I learned
to admire both him and
his lovely wife. I know
you will have help to meet
this sorrow for you both
live so close to the source
of all real help, but I
am so sorry it had to come.

57

The Gotham
NEW YORK

My love and deepest
deepest sympathy
dear Emma and Rob,
Your friend
Lola J. Blake

59

Box A



Southwick Mass.

Sept 16 "1934

My dear Dr & Mrs Sher:-

When I read of the tragedy at Mt. Hermon in our paper yesterday morning, I at once thought of you for I felt he was your son and today at church the thought was confirmed.

I realize that amongst the vast number of people you meet you probably will not remember me; but I shall not soon forget the welcome given me about 30 yrs ago, I think it was 1911 when I was asked to speak to the Mission Band of which your daughter was a

member and the lovely spirit of hospital-
tality I found in your home.

I just wonder if this could be the boy
who with his sister ate with Mrs
Speer & myself.

Words fail to convey the sympathy
that I feel at this time. But I
just felt impelled to let you know
that up here in this little town
a heart is beating attune to yours
in this overwhelming sorrow as will
many many others all over the world
as the news is flashed in so many
different directions.

If I remember correctly I think I
met Mr. Speer at our Campore India



home when he came over with
Dr S. M. Gilliam.

May the comfort which alone comes
from above be yours these sorrowful
days.

With tenderest sympathy

Clara M. Beach.

Woman's Union Missionary Society
retired missionary

57

BURARABDIL
ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Dear Friends -

I cannot
forbear adding my sympathy
to the many friends whom
you have heard. And
that is just all I can do.
And to tell you that I
have been thinking of you
daily, and tried to make
the thinking as helpful as
I could make it! For some

reason - I have been im-
pressed with the thought -
that - God must have loved
Colliott very much!

It is such a comfort to
all your friends to know
how strong you always
are under any deprivation
because your faith is so deeply
rooted - and without seeing
you - I know it is just
the same now -

Sept 23rd 1934.
(Rev. Frederic W.)

Always affectionately
Shirley V. Clark -

Very sincere regards to the
Caryl & Charlotte Bigelow

~~Very sincerely, Allen Tappan Bigelow~~

52

148 Library Place
Princeton - N. J.

With profound sympathy - O.W.

With great love to Mother

Dr + Mrs. Douglas Putnam Birnie

May the God of Comfort & strength
Companion you both. He will not ask
that you understand 800 Sixteenth Street

auth



My dear Mrs. Sheen:

Ever since we heard the shocking news of the tragedy that has come to you and Mr. Sheen in Elliott's death I have wanted to write to you, to send you my deep sympathies and tender love.

I wish that there were

Something that I could do or
say to help you, for you both
must know how very deeply
all the Englewood friends feel
for you.

Please know that my heart
aches for you both in this
dreadful loneliness and that I
am,

Faithfully yours,

Mary Andrews Booth.

Sunday evening.

Ans
Ans

The Tree Tops Seal Club

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BROADWAY AT 120TH STREET
NEW YORK

Me

Sept 18/34

Dear Robert,

The news of your
great sorrow and tragedy has
just reached us. What can I
say to convey to you and
to men speak the sympathy
and affection with which
we have been following
you in our thoughts. We
know something in our
own experience of the

social aspects of death & mystery, our Church
can with reason to enhance rather than
to diminish.

Let faith be our ally & try at such
a time, and that you know full well. It
is Evl. discipline, I suppose, by which
when we speak words of faith in Evl's
power to meet every need, we do not
do so lightly, but out of a full feeling
of life experience. That at least
is where I have found my comfort
in my own sorrow

That Evl may minister to you

sorrow that is brought by the
sudden death of the young, and
we can understand something
of the peculiar poignancy of
the experience through which
you are passing. When life has
reached its normal term, and
human powers are feeling death
seems a normal term-ending.
But when life is just begun,
new, & powers are at their
peak, & there is so much to
be done, & so few to do it,
nothing seems at first nearer
than we can reach. That

richly of her own time & strength
& peace in the constant prayers
of my wife, and to

Yours affectionately friend

William Brewster

817

MAITLAND BARTLETT

156 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y. Sep 17, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Ave
New York, N.Y.

Dear Robert -

The news that has come of the tragic death of Elliott has brought profound sorrow to my heart. My thoughts and prayer go out to you and to Mrs. Speer in your grief. It was giving such splendid promise of a consecrated and devoted life that his taking seems incomprehensible to us all. The fine service he had rendered at Northfield, brief as it was, will be felt in the future of the Uxbridge School and it is only human to wish that it could have been continued for years.

When one turns from the public side of his life to the circle of the home and to you words seem to fail. With the promise

here of joy and beauty in Christian love we can but
say - why should it have been?

We can only leave our hearts and our minds in
the care of One who knows.

You all have my affectionate sympathy in your
deep sorrow and I know that spirits which
have not faltered or failed will meet this
great test.

Cordially yours -

Wailand Bartlett

67

THE SANITARIUM AND CLINIC
CLIFTON SPRINGS
NEW YORK

Sept. 10, 1936

Robert E. Speer

Dear Mr. Speer:

When a nurse came to my door today & said Mr. Van Dyne wanted your address I could not understand. She came back in about two minutes and said it was Elliott Speer's address that was wanted to send a telegram. When I went down to supper I heard the tragic news unbelievable that he could have been murdered. I am thinking tonight of you & his family with great sympathy & sorrow and to you I extend my heartfelt sorrow for the whole family.

Sincerely

Agnes M. Sigelov

He
Is Just
Away



I CANNOT SAY, AND I WILL NOT SAY
THAT HE IS DEAD.— HE IS JUST AWAY!
WITH A CHEERY SMILE, AND A WAVE OF THE HAND,
HE HAS WANDERED INTO AN UNKNOWN LAND,
AND LEFT US DREAMING HOW VERY FAIR
IT NEEDS MUST BE, SINCE HE LINGERS THERE.
AND YOU-O YOU, WHO THE WILDEST YEARN
FOR THE OLD-TIME STEP AND THE GLAD RETURN,—
THINK OF HIM FARING ON, AS DEAR
IN THE LOVE OF THERE AS THE LOVE OF HERE;
THINK OF HIM STILL AS THE SAME, I SAY:
HE IS NOT DEAD— HE IS JUST AWAY!

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

612
THE SANITARIUM AND CLINIC
CLIFTON SPRINGS
NEW YORK

Sept. 17, 1934

Dear Robert,

You and Mrs. Speer have hardly been out of my mind in my waking moments since the word of your terrible sorrow has come to me. I have constantly held you in my prayer. How utterly strange and inexplicable it all seems! I had not supposed that dear Elliott had an enemy in the world. Perhaps he had not. It would seem that some crazed brain must have been responsible for this terrible thing.

Please accept for yourself and Mrs. Speer the heartfelt sympathy of one who holds you in high honor and affection.

Elliott's wife and children, lovely Caroline and Eleanor whom I have repeatedly seen in the home, who shall comfort them? I stand stricken before it all.

With loving sympathy -

Clarence Barbour

My dear Friends: -

May you be given power
by your strength and
comfort at this time of
terrible tragedy.

Faithfully yours,

W. Lawrence Edmund

100 E. Palisade Ave.,
Englewood, N.J.

ack.
CWS
Oct 17

516

THE HAWTHORNES
COOPERSTOWN
NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Speer:-

Mr and Mrs Loesch
and I are mourning
with you and no one
can feel more deeply
for you than we do
because I had to part
with my two dear boys
when they had just

grown to manhood.

I do not see you very often but you are just as dear to my heart as ever and I follow you around the world with the greatest interest.

My severe illness since last March has made me a great care to Mr and Mrs Loesch and for that reason we have not seen you ~~where~~ you were

THE HAWTHORNES
COOPERSTOWN
NEW YORK

in Chicago.

I am at home this summer and only able to go around in a wheel chair - since my operation.

Mr Loesch has had his first rest at home this summer but has called back to Chicago for a few days. He will be home

again Saturday.

The blow you have had
is such a severe one
to you and Mrs. Speer
but it is also a great
loss to all the Country.

If we could only get
rid of Mr. Rosewell, I think
the Country would be better.

What a host of friends
you will have to mourn
with you.

I am so sorry you

THE HAWTHORNES
COOPERSTOWN
NEW YORK

cannot come to Cooperstown
but I realize your busy
life.

I see Drs Stone and
Edman often and they
are so dear to me.

I have just been read-
ing for the second time
"Borden of Yale".

I hardly feel that I
can live without Mrs Borden
as I miss her so dread-

fully.

May and I have talked
of you so much — your
dear boy, his wife and
three Children.

Please accept our
love and believe that
no one feels a deeper
sympathy for you than
your friend

Charlotte Prentiss Banning

9/18/34

(Dictated to Nurse)

THE HAWTHORNES
COOPERSTOWN
NEW YORK

P.S.

Mrs Loesch is here
and wishes to send
you ^{and Mrs. Spier} her deepest sympathy.

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Spear—

You have my very deep
and sincere sympathy
in these days of great
sorrow.

Sincerely your friend,

Julia Hall Bartholomew.
Sept. 18th 1934. 105 Nippon St
Mt. Airy, N.C.



The **EMPIRE
BUILDER**
VIA GLACIER NATIONAL PARK



Sept. 18, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer:


I have never before had to express to anyone my sympathy for so tragic an event as that by which you lost your son. The only news which has reached us on this train leaves it entirely without explanation, and I presume that it was the act of a maniac. I did not know Elliott, whose day at college was after mine, but of course I have often

heard of his fine work at Northfield,
and I am sure that he can ill be spared
there. The consolation which you and
your family will receive from God,
whom you so nobly serve, is such that
no word of mine can add to it; but
I want you to know that you have
been in the thoughts and prayers
of Mrs. Buchanan and me as we jour-
ney homeward. The Lord bless you
and keep you.

Sincerely your friend,
John G. Buchanan
Mr. Robert C. Speer.

ack.
Oct. 10.

Oct. 9 - 1934

Hotel George Washington
 23 Lexington Ave.
N.Y.C.

Gram - 5 - 1920.

R. 1625.

Dearest Emma -

Calling earlier they told me
of your return yesterday and
I am leaving these roses
to cheer you in your "Dark
Valley" as you have so
often ministered to our "Pro-
fundis" by your presence
and your prayers.

First, darling Emma, I

Communion of the Spirit in tune
with you all in prayer -

With an especial greeting to Dr. Speer,
to your daughters-in-law and her
charming children, to Billy who is I
know a tower to you all - again with
our Calvary's constant prayers for
comfort and our children to whom
you have been as mother,

Devotedly
Josephine

Telephoned to Northfield
so that you might know
at once of "The Calvary"
"Comfort" for you, your hus-
band & your children at
The eleven o'clock service,
when my sons-in-law
upon the Altar begged
the Creator's healing for
your trust.

As the great world family
blessed by you and Dr. Speer
and Marnie, so is the
tidal torrent of deep

444
Oct 11

National Board
Young Women's Christian Associations
of the United States of America
600 Lexington Ave. New York, N. Y.

Cable Address
Emissarius, New York



Telephone
Plaza 3-4700

My dear Mrs. Speer.

Oct. 9.

Shortly before I
left London, I learned of the
terrible sorrow that came
to you, and Dr. Speer. My heart
goes out to you in loving
sympathy - and prayerful
desires that the Great Comfort-
er may be with you both.

Mrs. Waldegrave wrote
me from Scotland to know
if I had information more
than the papers had given out,

and knowing I was to
soon return home, asked
me to assure you of her
dear understanding and
love.

With old time affection,

I am

your friend -

Henry F. Barnes.

1432 W. Sandusky St.,

Findlay,

Ohio.

57

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE
NEW YORK

September 24 '34

Dear Dr. Spier -

I was away on a speaking trip when the terrible tragedy occurred at Mt. Vernon and consequently did not learn of it promptly.

I want to assure you of my profound sympathy and to remind you of the earnest way so many of us are praying that God may give you and your family strength and grace to carry this very heavy cross. That you will bear it bravely we know. That "the consolations of God" may all be yours is our prayer.

Sincerely and with affection
Gorge Wm Brown

57

UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE
DUBUQUE, IOWA



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Sept 21, 1934

Dear Dr. Speer:

My deepest sympathy
to you & your family in
the tragic death of your
son. May the love
and consolation of the
Master be yours in

a very special position
in this time of bereavement.

Yours most fraternally,

Paul H. Buchholz

Dr. Robt. C. Sher
136 Fifth Ave.,
New York City

Buchholz

Elizabeth

ack.
2/29/95.

and
George

Lilieth

"Our God shall come!" Psalm 50:3-5 and 2:6-12 and 24:3-10.
"The Lord—shall suddenly come." Malachi 3:1-6, 16, 17; 4:1, 2;
Zephaniah 1:7-8, 14-16 and 2:1-3.

IN A MOMENT

"In that Day the GREAT trumpet shall be blown."—Isaiah 27:13; Daniel 12.

"Thy dead men shall live: together with My dead body shall they arise."
Isaiah 26:19; Job 19:25-27; I Thess. 4:15-18 5th Chap.; Hebrews 9:28 and 11:39-40;
Luke 21:24-36.

Quite suddenly - it may be at the turning of a lane,

Where I stand to watch a skylark soar from out the swelling grain,
That the trump of God shall thrill me, with its call so loud and clear,
And I'm called away to meet Him, Whom of all I hold most dear.

Quite suddenly - it may be in His house I bend my knee,

When the kingly Voice, long hoped for, comes at last to summon me,
And the fellowship of earth-life that has seemed so passing sweet,
Proves nothing but the shadow of our meeting round His feet.

Quite suddenly - it may be as I tread the busy street,

Strong to endure life's stress and strain, its every call to meet,
That through the roar of traffic, a trumpet, silvery clear,
Shall stir my startled senses and proclaim His coming near.

Quite suddenly - it may be as I lie in dreamless sleep,

God's gift to many a sorrowing heart, with no more tears to weep
That a call shall break my slumber and a Voice sound in my ear;
Rise up, my love, and come away, behold the Bridegroom's here.

Jesus said—"I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in Me though he were dead yet
shall he live; and he that liveth and believeth shall never see death." John 11:25-26;
John 14:1-3-6; I Cor. 15:23, 51, 52.

2. Hester Buchanan's letter

57

MR. HAROLD W. BUCHANAN
112 WEST 76TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Sept 16 - 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer. D.D.
24 Gramercy Park.
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer

I desire to extend
to you my deepest sympathy,
at the great loss you have so
recently sustained, in the
very sudden and tragic death
of your son, the Rev. Elliott Speer.

God's ways are not
our ways always, for He knoweth
"the End from the beginning" and
Psa 138: 8 Says, "Jehovah Will perfect
that which concerneth me"

We know, "He doth not afflict willingly
from his heart nor grieve the children
of men." (Lam. 3:33), and "Whom the Lord
loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth
every son whom he receiveth."

I pray, that "the Father of Mercies,
and the God of all Comfort," who
comforteth us in all our affliction,
that we may be able to comfort them
that are in any affliction, through
the comfort wherewith we ourselves
are comforted of God," may Himself
comfort you, at this time, as He
alone can do, and this great
testing of your faith in Him
may enable you, to "shine more
and more" in the future for Him,
than even in the past.

Yours most sincerely
Harold W. Buchanan

JOHN STEWART BURGESS
506 GLENSIDE AVENUE
WYNCOTE
PENNSYLVANIA

A19

Sept. 19, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer-

May I express to you my very deep sympathy at this time of great suffering and loss. I knew Elliott at Princeton some years ago and had recently heard such fine things of his remarkable influence at Northfield from my niece who is studying there.

May God's deepest comfort be yours, for you have been a mighty inspiration and strength to so many, *of whom I am one.*

Mrs. Burgess joins me in this inadequate but sincere word of sympathy,

Cordially yours,

J. S. Burgess

ack,



In
Sympathy

Be assured
of my
deep sympathy
for you
at this time
of sorrow

Emma E Berlet
"Residence Desk"
135 East 52 St.

National Board-Y. Y. C. A.

a ch.

Dear Mrs. Sheer.

There is some help at a time like this in the thought that the love and sympathy of all your friends, close and far, goes out to you - otherwise I should not attempt to write, for nothing one can say can measure the depth of such a tragedy as Elliott's death. I remember him always

Knowledge to make clear.

With sympathy and affection
from Lella and myself,

Yours sincerely,

Fred Bartlett

New Canaan, Conn -

September 18

as the tall attractive boy
who used to come occasionally
to "God" to meet you when
he was home from school
or college. Whom once or
twice I enjoyed talking to
for a brief moment. To
think that his life, so
useful and so full, should
be at the mercy of a chance
impulse of a twisted mind
- for surely it must have
been that - is once more to
wonder at all that we must
take on faith, waiting future

ask. GPs. Dec. 16.

I have Thought of you so
very often during these last
weeks, and wished That I had
words to tell you how my
heart has gone out to you
and yours. With my love
Margaret Burton

81/

B

2106-B Thirteenth Street
Lubbock, Texas
October 26, 1934

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

The Indian prints reached us safely. I divided the material into curtains by undoing the middle seams, and our dining room is made cheerful by the red and green birds on its curtains. The gift is lovely, but I appreciate even more your good wishes and the love which prompted it.

It was shortly before my

wedding day that the shocking news
of your son's death reached us. We were
all thinking of you at that time
and our sympathy went out to
you both. It still seems unbelievable
that such a thing could happen.

I know Northfield will not be
able to find a President of his
calibre again.

Sincerely yours,

Mary M. Brittain

ack.

With Friends
Sympathy

No words, can express my
sympathy for you
and all your family -

Much love to you,

Margaret L. Beayton

October 2, 1934 -

*Although none may fully share your loss
may it bring some measure of comfort
to know that thoughts
of heartfelt sympathy are with you.*

Ans
Oct 5.

adm. too
all Garrets Day

My dear Mrs. Spurr.

The day of Elliott's tragic death I was called to New York as Dr. Boynton was suffering from an acute heart attack.

For a week we were together in St. Luke's Hospital and then he slipped quietly out from this world to the next.

Your sorrow was often in his mind and though much

of the time he was chosen
yet he would rise and say
"that young man, that English
boy"

I have just returned to our
summer home in Williamsstown
and I want you to know how
I sorrow with you. Elliott's
birthday is also mine, All
Saints, one of the most precious
festivals of the Church. I
shall think of him and you
when I offer up my prayers
that day.

If you are at N.Y. Haven
I would love to drive over

and all, I shall be here most
of the month.

Please tell your daughter that
the heart of one more friend
goes out to her and her children

Faithfully your friend

Francis C. Boynton.

Williamstown

October Third

Mount Hermon
October 31, 1934.

My very dear Mrs. Speer,

May I send

you my love especially for to-morrow? I hope the day will bring to you and Dr. Speer a comforting sense of all it meant to the world that such a son should have been born to you on this day — so that even a look at him was enough to make us all want to follow his radiant goodness. And for Elliott, perhaps this will be the happiest of all his

Happy Birthdays!

Dave and I thank you so much for sharing with us your beautiful message of faith and courage. We hope for at least a glimpse of you a week from Sunday. And we shall spend the day with you and Holly Thursday, in prayer and love.

Your devoted friend,
Sophie Burdell

aka.

Englewood

Mama dear,

I just want you to know
that in thinking of you all the time
and praying that the most sustaining
Power may be given you. Probably
there is not one person who can
enter into your heart's sorrow. And
that I think understand, for nothing
you can express with it -

But dear, do you remember how in
the days of long ago we had and
talked together - trying to realize

With the secret word of Peace
We bid our brethren go;
Peace as a river to increase,
And channels flow.

With the calm word of Prayer
We earnestly beseech
Our brethren to the watchful care,
Eternal Friend!

With the dear word of Love
We give our brief farewell;
Our love below, and thine above,
Which thine shall dwell.

With the strong word of Faith
We stay ourselves on Thee
That thou, O Lord, in life and death,
Thine help shalt be.

Thou the bright word of Hope
Shall on our parting gleam,
And till of joy beyond the scope
Of earth-born dream.

Farewell! in hope and love,
In faith, and peace, and prayer;
All he whose love is seen above,
Unite us here.

Amen.

"Trinity in the heart and the life
greater than accepting personal.

Surely there is a spiritual communion
which has nothing to do with time
or space and yet becomes a reality
here and now. And you had so
prepared your children to meet
life fully. You have been so very
wonderful dear and such an
inspiration. We very proud to be
your friend.

I will enclose a letter in very
good of as it may not be in your book.

Hope to write - We will meet
soon very soon. May the dear Father
give you His grace. Lovingly Anna.

ack.

Mrs Robert E. Speer
Englewood, N.J.

My dear Mrs Speer,-

At a meeting of our local
Y. W. C. A. Board on Wednesday evening
we desired to express to you our
deepest sympathy in your recent
sorrowment. Words fail to tell
you in such a time, how sincere
is our expression but we fail,
since you have been so intimately
connected with Y. W. work all

over the world, that we should
like to have you know that we
are thinking about you and
praying for you in this time
of great trial.

May God give you all His
Comfort and His Peace.

Very sincerely

(Wm H.) Ella D. Russell

Stanley Coal Cor. Secy.

Westfield N.J.

September Twenty one

ackd

Oct. 31, 1934

7 WEST 92ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Speer.

You have been in my thoughts
so much since this great sorrow
came to you; I have purposely
waited for a time knowing full
the days that come after, & the many
letters that must be read.

We very re "sympathize" with
another in their heart sorrow that
come to us. but I feel no one can
truly sympathize in a sorrow
like yours. except those of us who
have passed through that dark

Valley & have had to part for a
time with our beloved ones. I
know all about it. have had two
dear little ones "outstrip me in
the race", & so my tenderest sympathy
goes out to you.

I know full well, & rejoice, you are
not cast down, but proving God's
promises & finding them all so true.
How could one go through these
storms of life if we did not "press
hard" on these promises.

I hope you are having strength to
carry on. there is nothing like work,
& more work at these times when the
Lord's Church needs hard.

Please
don't feel you must answer this. With love & sympathy.
C. M. Beattie.

ack.

Sh. Sec. - 59.

Seal Harbor, Maine.

Dear Emma:

I can not help
adding a word to
what Will has already
written you.

We are struck dumb
with horror at such a
crime, committed against
a man so eminent.

you all in these dreadful
days and in all the
long loneliness that follows
such a loss.

Words are utterly in-
adequate - We can only assure
you of all our sympathy.

affectionately yours

Walter Glean Brown

Sep. 18th 1934

for his Christian life.

Our sympathy for
you and your husband -
for your daughter-in-law
and three little grand-
daughters - I trust no
bounds.

It must have been
the act of a man
temporarily insane.

May God forgive

adm. Coplewood

Anna Dearest,

Words truly fail at a
time like this, but I trust you
may have a perfect vision of
that Wall of loving friendship
and spiritual communion
which surrounds you today.

May the All-Father keep you
near in His love -

Devotedly Anna

Sunday.

Yplendid self giving will
always bring dealing
with them — Looking back
on Elliotts odork life full
of joyful service of such
a high order, will be
a real comfort.

Stephen joins me in love
to you & dear Rob. Devotedly
Dorcas

ack.

993 FIFTH AVENUE

Sept. 21st

My very dear Emma

I do hope you all received
our Radio from the boat
telling you of our love & sym-
pathy in this shocking
tragedy — What can we
say that will bring you any

Real comfort dear friends.

You both live so close to our
Heavenly Father that I know
You are being strengthened
moment by moment and
Elliott does not seem far
from you. I want very
much to see you and

to put my arms about
you & just tell you that
I love you very dearly.

I know what the loss
is and I know that
the wound is always
in a Parents heart, but
the sweet memories of his

adm.

September 20th

MRS. HERMON B. BUTLER
HILLRISE
WINNETKA, ILLINOIS
TELEPHONE WINNETKA 102

Dear Mr. Speer.

There are multitudes all over the world whose hearts are aching with yours in this great sorrow which has fallen upon you and yours, and I cannot refrain from adding my word of profound sympathy to the many which will come to you. Our poor finite minds turn aside baffled from the effort to comprehend so great a mystery as the sudden cutting short of a life so

Love will comfort your heart -

Forgive my poor and clumsy words
which bring you my inexpressible
sympathy and true affection, and
I earnestly beg you not to reply -

Faithfully yours

Jessie Beatrice Butler

passions, so animated by the
fresh spirit of service, so necessary
to the welfare of many, near
and far -

But, as I have three times been
called upon to testify, in the
passing from earthly service of
my husband, my son, and, last
year, my nineteen year old grand-
son, we must and do believe
that such trials are needed and
translated into a nobler service
in the "spacious fields of eternity".
Your own faith and courage
will never fail and will
sustain your loved ones
and I pray daily that God's

ack/

MRS. ARTHUR BAVE
963 VIRGIL AVENUE
RIDGEFIELD, NEW JERSEY
MORSEMER 4956

September 19, 1934

my dear Mrs. Speer.

You may not remember me
but I remember the joy it was to work with
you those long ago years in Englewood.

I am stunned and shocked at this terrible
thing which has happened to you and your
family. Eliot was such a fine and gracious
youth and, of course, as the years went on
he became more and more your joy and
pride.

There seems to have been no reason for
the tragedy and I am so sorry it has
come to you.

My recollection is that your daughters
went to China.

I do hope some compensation may be
yours to lighten the burden.

Very sincerely yours,

Lana Baw

MRS. ARTHUR J. BROWN
1235 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK. N. Y.

50

Dear Robert:

I have hesitated to burden you with letters at a time when your hands and heart are so full, but I am giving you "absent treatment" every day. In my morning and evening devotions I daily pray that God may comfort and sustain you and Mrs. Speer and Holly. I know that He is helping you and them. Your faith and courage in carrying on are an inspiration to all who know you.

Mrs. Brown joins me in loving remembrance and in frequent prayer.

Ever affectionately,

Arthur

December 9, 1934

adm.
atlas

MENEMSHA
MARTHA'S VINEYARD
MASSACHUSETTS

Mrs W.B. Bryan
Parnett

My dear Mrs Sheer -

My heart aches for you
and your family. No such tragic
experience has ever come to me and
yet I can understand a little of the
agony of mind and heart you must
be suffering.

A wonderful person has been
taken from us. And the world is
so much in need of just such

as he was. And even though his
spirit lives on in the hearts of
all who were fortunate enough to
know and love him, the un-
planned, understandable
tragedy seems almost impossible
to accept.

There must be something unique
in motherhood which makes it
a kind apart from all other re-
lationships. For the loss of a child
is like losing part of one's self.
The pain must be almost too much
to bear.

And yet I know of ~~you~~ ^{her} ~~same~~ and
Dr. ~~Shen~~ ^{Shen} have a great faith and at-

MENEMSHA
MARTHA'S VINEYARD
MASSACHUSETTS

This time it will be I know the
only thing of comfort to you. There
must have been some reason
which we cannot know why it
was right that it should be thus.

I send you both my love
and sympathy and I pray you
will receive comfort from God
who alone can bring peace.

Most Sincerely
Kit- Bryan.

Sunday.

119 Harley St.
London

Dear Emma

My heart is free & untroubled
and love for thee & you -
I cannot say anything that
helps for, that comes from
within but I can tell thee
in love and I surely do

The angrier ghosts in the body
her mind always been near
in spirit so I think of the
body as near as ever -
Hence

Ann A Bailey

150 EAST PALISADE AVENUE

ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

November 8th

Beloved One. I so much appreciated your
dear note - It was a joy to gather from some
of those who knew and loved your Blessed
Day - the intimate reminiscences that I
could - most of them, I think, Maud already
had - How wonderful it is. To have only
sweetness and fragrance in any of them -
even the boyish pranks we love in children.
I have received a letter from Margaret a day
or two ago - in which she referred to some of

them fondly - How the beautiful Christlike
Spirit of her Parents permeates the character
of that lovely daughter of yours - So

often in thinking of Elliott - since his
translation - that poem of Kipling's "S'Evrae"
comes to mind - as it has for years - in
trying to visualize our loved ones - passed
from our present vision - they "shall never
be weary at all!" We all unite in dearest

love for both you beloved ones -

your devoted

"Mother" Burr

ack.

Dear dear Mrs. Opeer.

Our hearts
are aching with yours
Today -

Lovingly

Flora J. Ballentine

Sunday Sept 16th

ack. /

Thank you, Aunt Maud,
Specs, for the memorials
of Elbert you kindly sent
me. The message and
the witness of your life
these days are an
special help to me.

I have just returned
from Ohio, where I was
called by the serious
illness and death of
my mother. Her

condition and my
sympathy for you and Mrs.
Spicer suddenly made
me lose the grip upon
myself that Sunday
morning. I felt like
returning an apology, but
better than that, I can
testify that your message
and attitude are
a great help to me.

Thank you, and
bless you Margaret Brown -

JBA

~~Q. 10. 10/25~~

Beloved One - There is no
need to tell you how tenderly
we hold you in our hearts, all
these days - We do not say words
of comfort - The Great Comforter's
words and Spirit - are closer
to you than breathing - and your

Spirit of Trust, and Love and
understanding, lifts us all to
greater love and trust -
yesterday at our Missionary
Dinner the friend beside me
was telling me of her close
contacts with Elliott, in those
days when that terrible epidemic
was raging in England during
the War, and his wonderful
spirit of consecration and
service, though hardly more
than a lad - If he was capable
of those acts then, what must
the Father have for him to do,
when he was so suddenly called.
- Surely it cannot enter into our
hearts to conceive what was
waiting for him, in the House
of many Mansions - Her most fond
love - Yours "Mother" Burr

ackd.

233 EDWARDS STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Dear Mr. Speer.

Things seem of so little value at such a time as this and yet I do want you to know how constantly you and your family have been in our minds and hearts and how great is our sympathy for you all -

You have helped so many of us by your own strong faith and clear spiritual vision that I

Know you have what no human
help can give now. How can people
who have no sense of this unseen
help meet such a tragedy as has
come to your family!

My husband who knew your son
so well is writing to his wife, who
with her little daughters have been
so heartlessly robbed by this dastardly
act.

May the Heavenly Father be very
near to you in these days when you
have your own sorrow to bear while
you are sharing the sorrows of the others
in your family.

Again assuring you of our deepest
sympathy believe me

Affectionately yours

Alice Julia Brown

September seventeenth

CLASS OF SERVICE

1934 NOV 11 PM 7:55
 This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

R. B. WHITE
 PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
 FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

WESTERN UNION

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

1934 NOV 11 PM 7:34
 LC1356 11 3 EXTRA=ASHEVILLE NCAR VIA EASTNORTHFIELD MASS 11

DR AND MRS ROBT E SPEER=

24 GRAMMERCY PARK NYK=

MS-6

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

OUR MINDS AND HEARTS ARE WITH YOU TODAY=

MARGARE AND HOWARD EEMENT.

002

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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GR22 14=MS NEWYORK NY SEP 15 909A

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

MOUNTHERMON MASS=

THE NEWS IS SHOCKING MAY GOD GIVE YOU AND MRS SPEER
STRENGTH AND COMFORT=

CONNELL BIDWELL.

(950A)

079
NORTH AMERICA FOR CHRIST

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETY

SAMUEL BRYANT, TREASURER

23 EAST 26th STREET
NEW YORK

October 3, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

May I send to you and Mrs. Speer my deepest sympathy in the sorrow that has come to you through the death of your son. I know the deep faith that will sustain you in this time of trial and I am confidently expecting that out of such a tragic experience there shall come forth something that will make it genuinely fruitful for the Kingdom.

May God's grace be abundant to you and may his richest blessing rest upon you.

Fraternally yours,

Spitt Beers

GFB:J

21/

Cagevath
Pine Key Pa.

My dear Mr. Desjard.
There are no
words to send
you - which
you both do
not read far
better than we.
best "Best" & ^

are both sharing
so truly in your
great sorrow - that
we feel we
must send you
our deepest
sympathy - & the
affectionate admiration
which time &
distance can
never change -

Tristfully yours
M. D. C. Brown

all

George G. Barber

551 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

September 17, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Words cannot adequately express the feeling of sympathy and love which Mrs. Barber and I want to convey to Mrs. Speer and yourself.

The accident to Elliott was horribly shocking and as strong as our Christian faith may be, it is hard for us to understand. It must be all the more distressing to you not to know why or by whom the dastardly act was perpetrated.

I wish there was something we could do to relieve your sorrow and grief in losing one so beloved, but I guess all we can do is express deepest sympathy and say that we mourn with you.

With sincere condolences, I am,

Sincerely, your friend,

George G. Barber

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Conn.

Good
days

Box 27

Yorktown Heights N.Y.
September 19, 1934

Dear Rob and Emma,

I went to New York yesterday on the chance of seeing one or both of you. But much as I longed to see you, I was glad to hear that you are having the month of Rob's vacation together at Lakeville. I telegraphed when we first heard by telephone on Sunday afternoon about Elliott.

No kind of message ever seemed more inadequate, and I cannot write much now.

But may I say that Elliott seems unusually near to me,

Our love goes increasingly to all
of you.

Ever yours

Gilbert

P. S. There has been delay in finding the lines,
which are now enclosed.

one of Katharine's generation to whom
I have always felt bound by special
ties, and now feel more than ever
grateful for the help that is com-
ing through a deeper fellowship
of thought and prayer. I believe
~~that this fellowship will mean~~
more and more to many of his
friends and especially to both of you.

I do not know how to write
about it, but Jean thinks that
a few lines which came to me
after Katharine's passing will
give a hint of what I should
like to say. Will you please
keep them within the circle of
your family. I have shown
~~them to only a few friends~~
passing through similar experience.

REUNION

By Gilbert Addams —

A deeper light in thy dear eyes,
A deeper longing born in me,
And ever as the old year dies,
A deeper loss in losing thee.

A deeper sense of thine own joy,
A deeper hope of what shall be,
And lo, I find without alloy
A deeper gain in having thee.

A deeper peace than I could ask,
A deeper love for all I see,
Since now I seek in every task
A deeper fellowship with thee.

A deeper faith, a deeper quest,
As thy bright presence heartens me,
And ever deeper in my breast

The prayer our Lord still teaches thee.

Space

Thus in thy longing I would share,

As
~~will~~ thy clear vision kindles me,

And helps to answer here the prayer

Which deeper meaning has for thee:

Father, Thy Kingdom come

Thy will be done on earth

As it is in heaven.

With acknowledgments to Henry Van Dyke's
lines to his daughter Dorothea.



Ans
12/5/15.

Alexandria Pa

Emma & Rob dear.
Little did I realize what
wrote Rob yesterday what
sorrow you were going
through and your family
as well as Elliotts have
my love and deepest sympathy
Rob has been a dear ^{friend} ⁱⁿ ^{times}
in times of sorrow. I feel
a letter is such a small thing
to send you, yet you all
know my thoughts are
with you. We sometimes ^{wonder}
why ones with life before
them are called ^{for} ^{home}
why people are not well
often again, we realize ^{you}



does not make any mistake
And those who ~~have~~^{not} lost a
dear one or ones know anything
about it. But we can turn
to him who never fails
With love for you all

Oyars
Brother, M. Peter B.

Aldine Bly

GRACE ANDREWS-BLACK, M. D.

1938 CHESTNUT STREET

PHILADELPHIA

(EYE only) Recd 9/24/34
Hylb

OFFICE HOURS
10 A. M. TO 1 P. M.
AND BY APPOINTMENT

BELL PHONE, LOCUST 5735

Dear Doctor Spear,

In this hour of your great sorrow I can and do sympathize with you for I have just lost my husband your classmate Fred, who passed on in his sleep Aug 17, 5.15 Pm.

It seems that it cannot be but we have to "carry on". I am living now just for my work - giving people better vision and healthier eyes.

I feel as if I knew you having heard Fred talk so much about you. Then I remember the time Jan Sinclair Wood brought you to Bryn Mawr (Jan is a classmate of mine)

Again extending my deepest sympathy to you, believe me,

Very sincerely,

Grace Andrews Black.

GRACE ANDREWS-BLACK, M. D.

1938 CHESTNUT STREET

PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE HOURS

10 A. M. TO 1 P. M.

AND BY APPOINTMENT

BELL PHONE LOCUST 5725

He is not dead, this friend, not dead,
But in the path we mortals tread
Gone some few trifling steps ahead & nearer to
So that you, too, once past the bend the end.
Shall meet again as face to face, this friend
You fancy dead.
Push gaily on, strong heart! The while
You travel forward mile by mile
He lingers with a backward smile
Till you can overtake,
And strains his eyes to search his wake
Or whistling as he sees you through the brake
Waits on a stile. "

Whitman

"I cannot say & I will not say
That he is dead - He is just away!
With a cheery smile, & a wave of the hand
He has wandered into an unknown land
And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be, since he lingers there.
And you - O you, who the wildest yearn
For that old-time sleep and the glad return
Think of him faring on as dear
In the love of There as the love of Here. "

belong.

Ans
as.

1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Sept. 29 / 1934.

Dear Doctor Speer:

I know I am late in
writing you but I have been away and
only two days ago I received word of
the tragic death of your son the Reverend
Ethell Speer.

Kindly accept for Mrs. Speer and yourself
my sincerest sympathy in this your great
loss and sorrow: and be assured I will not
forget you in my prayers.

Faithfully yours

John D. Burke

011

From F. L. Latham of Springfield in 1872 or '73

A friend who had lost a son in an automobile accident, wrote:

TOPOCON
EAST HARTLAND
CONNECTICUT

RPS spec
P. 104
3 copies
Chpts XIII
10/10

September 17, 1934

Dear Dr. Speer:-

Only one who has been through the tragic experience of the sudden death of a beloved son, can possibly know the agony of soul which is yours now. That Elliot should have been murdered and his wife and children so unspeakably bereaved, adds a depth of sorrow which my boy's death in an automobile accident of course did not bring us. But Mrs. Berg and I feel that we do enter ^{the Gethsemane which} yours and Mrs. Speer's ^{know,} ~~to tell~~ Gethsemane; and we wanted you to know that we have been praying for you, with understanding hearts and asking our Father to comfort you both, as He has comforted us.

I hope this brief note will not
seem an intrusion. I knew and
loved Elliot, when he was our
Chaplain at Lafayette; and somehow
I wanted you and yours to know
of our great sympathy. Please convey
it to his ~~poor~~ little wife - if it seems
possible. Words are so inadequate -
but our Christian faith is not, thank God!

Faithfully yours,

Living H. Berg

Ans
955

JUDGE'S CHAMBERS
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
THOMAS F. BAILEY
PRESIDENT JUDGE
326 PENN ST.
HUNTINGDON, PA.

Sept 17, 1934

My dear Bob,

I want you to know how
deeply I and my family sympathize
with you in the tragic death of your
splendid son. This entire community has
been deeply shocked. Why his brilliant
career should be thus ended none of us
can know but our him death could have
no victory. I grieve with you in this
dark and trying hour.

Your friend
Tom Bailey

678
16 1934
ANS.
Thomas E. Barber

Apartado 10,
Ocaña, Colombia, S.A.
Sept. 24, 1934.

Robert E. Speer, D.D.
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,
N.Y. U.S.A.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Last evening we received a letter telling us of the tragic death of your beloved son.

It came as a shock to us. It seems so difficult to imagine why anyone should desire to harm such a useful young man. How our hearts go out to you and Mrs. Speer who have been bereaved of a devoted son, and also to the dear young wife and children who have so suddenly been left to grieve the absence of a beloved husband and father.

May our dear Heavenly Father sustain each one in this hour of trial and draw all the dear ones very close to Him. May He bestow upon you the precious comfort that comes through faith in our Divine Saviour and His abiding promises is our wish and prayer,

Your sincere friend,

Thomas E. Barber

To Dr & Mrs Speer

018

A. CHRISTY BROWN
BOX 215
WINONA LAKE, INDIANA

Sep. 19-1934

Dr Robert E. Speer:

My Dear Friend:

Our deepest sympathy goes out to you in the sudden sorrow that has crossed your path. That so noble and capable a worthy son should have had his life snuffed out, without warning and without cause must have been a great shock. That the Lord gave you such a son is cause for gratitude, ^{and} is worthy of warm congratulations, even though his career was cut short. You have the Blessed Comforter with you to sympathize and soften and sanctify the suffering of your hearts. May He bless to you the expressions of tender fellowship that are coming and will flow in from all over the world. Yesterday in Muncie and Wayne ^{and} many times the brethren were moved to proper and kindly expressions as will multitudes elsewhere to whom you have endeared yourself. Mrs Brown and I have never passed through such a sorrow and we can hardly hope that our words of condolence can ever reach your eyes or hearts amid the flood of love messages that are crowding your way, but we feel your shock & your distress so keenly that we could not refrain from sending you this note to assure you of our love and prayers. Most truly
A. Christy Brown

018



Christ Church (Presbyterian)
2000 Orchard Street
CHICAGO

Rev. H. Ray Berger,
Pastor

September 20 1934

Dear Dr. Speer:

We were so shocked and
horrified when we read of the
tragic death of your son.
Mrs. Berger and I want to assure
you of our sincere sympathy and
prayers in this time of your sorrow.

May God bless you with his
comfort.

Most sincerely
H. Ray Berger

356 Wadsworth Ave.
New York City.

My dear Dr & Mrs Speer:-

Any thing I write will fail to express the love and sympathy that is felt for you at "156". We had such a beautiful prayer service Saturday. I shall never forget it. I think we all felt humbled before God as we prayed that you and your family might be comforted. I know I did. I want to express personally how very sorry I am for you all, as you pass through this dreadful ordeal. My prayer is that strength and courage and peace, may enter your

hearts.

Dreadful as it all is - I can
see you coming back to us
from this sad vacation, with
a deeper and more beautiful
Christian Spirit than ever -
a living example to us -
whose faith is not as strong!

yours in Christian love
Etta J. Boud.

Sept. 16. 1934

62
1

JAMES L. BARTON
LONGWOOD TOWERS
BROOKLINE, MASS.

Sept. 21 34

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

What can one say at a time like this? We can but be still and wait the Lord's revealings. The sympathetic heart of the world beats warm for you all in your overwhelming grief in which every one of us shares. We see as through a glass darkly, sometime we shall know.

With profound sympathy

Ever affectionately Yours

James L. Barton

512
MARCUS A. BROWNSON
CENTER LOVELL
OXFORD COUNTY
MAINE

September 27th, 1934

My dear Robert:

In common with your hosts of friends throughout the Country, I have been filled with consternation and sorrow over the terrible tragedy which has come to you and Mrs. Spear, in the ruthless murder of your gifted son, and I desire to express to you the sincerest sympathy of my heart.

Before the face of such an overwhelming event, any words of mine seem altogether inadequate. I do want you to know, however, how deeply I feel for you and I desire to give you the assurance of my daily prayers for your comfort, in the grace and love of our blessed Saviour.

It is now several years since I have had the pleasure of being with you but my

Admiration and love for you are the same
as ever. I am praying that God will
lift the dark cloud, hanging over your
home, with silver and that His countenance
may be visible with a new beauty never
seen before. He must be very near
His faithful and devoted servants, in their
hours of inexpressible grief.

I have been walking the Via Dolorosa

Since I laid to rest my dear Mary,
a few months ago, after our thirty nine years
of happy married life; but the presence of
the Lord has never before been so precious
to me. So from a heart of sorrow, not comforted,
I send you my sincerest sympathy.

With kindest remembrance to Mrs. Spess
and much affection to you,

Ever yours,

Marcus A. Brownson

ack. app. Oct 17

San Juan

Dearest Mrs. Spear:

I have not written
before because I know
you are surrounded
by the love and sym-
pathy of those nearest
and dearest to you -
And because nothing
dispels the sense of un-
reality in such an
unbelievable thing.

for me when Mother died.
I wish that I could
in some way repay it,
but such things cannot
be measured.

Always devotedly yours,
Dorothy Bourne

October 6th

But I do want you to know that the child who was with you so many years ago, when we came back from Europe to meet your tragic news, feels again, as a woman, the same sympathy and the same love which filled those sad days.

I always remember all that you did

*ack.
4/24
Oct 17*

MISS LOUISE W. BROOKS
925 ELIZABETH STREET
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

October 2

My dear Mrs. Speer:

When Edith Stanton phoned me of Elliotts tragic death, I just couldn't believe it and the old days at Camp Diamond and Englewood have been very real to me and you must know how greatly my love goes out to you. I keep in touch with you through Theresa and a good many of the old guard who used to be at 600 and through everything of my life runs my contact with your faith and courage-- so deep in my love and sympathy is a very poignant joy over having known you.

God bless you.

Faithfully yours,- Louise Brooks

Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America

CABLE ADDRESS "FEDCIL"

INCORPORATED

TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-3475

105 East 22nd Street
New York, N. Y.

ALBERT W. BEAVEN
PRESIDENT

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OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT

WILLIAM HIRAM FOULKES
CHAIRMAN

W. S. ABERNETHY
VICE-CHAIRMAN

CHARLES E. SCHAEFFER
RECORDING SECRETARY

Sept 18-1934

My dear Mr. Speer:
I was in Pittsburg last Saturday when the terrible and sad news came concerning your dear son. What a loss to you & the whole Christian Church! He was so well prepared for his work & was making such a success of the school.

The hearts of all your friends have been unusually saddened by this tragedy. I join them in assuring you of my prayers & deepest sympathy.

Fraternally Yours
Jesse M. Bader.

Elkhart, Indiana
 230 W. Jackson St.
 September 21. 1934

My dear Dr. Speer,

Our hearts have been made heavy from the word of your tragic misfortune. Words are so futile to express the comfort that one wishes for them to express.

You and your family are in the center of our prayers these trying days. We just wanted you to know that our deepest sympathy is yours.

May He who is always our Holy Comforter in some way lighten your pathway in these dark hours of loss and despair.

We are, Always your friends.
 M. & M. L. Kelly Brown

612

JOHN CROSBY BROWN
ELEVEN HUNDRED FIVE PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

Dear M. Speer:

I write with a
full heart to convey to you
my deep and abiding sympathy
over the tragic loss of Elliott.
While I had never met him
personally I knew of his
wonderful life and personality
and of his great and fruitful
service from many sources.

His loss seems so wasteful
and meaningless that only the
truest of Christians could, I
think, bear up under it with-
out bitterness. And yet I am
sure there is a meaning in it
and that none are better fitted
to find it than you and Mrs.
Speer.

I am reminded of the sudden

JOHN CROSBY BROWN
ELEVEN HUNDRED FIVE PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

death of my sister Helen from
infantile paralysis at the age
of eighteen after an illness of
only a few days. She was the
healthiest of all our family
and our dearly loved only
sister. Yet there was a
wonderful comfort in the
revelation, pouring forth from
the letters of her friends, of what

her life, even though so
young, had meant as an influ-
ence for all things that were
fine and lovely and for deep
and true religious faith.

The comfort of similar
knowledge, in abundant measure
due to his mature years of
leadership and service, will be
yours in regard to Elliott.

To you and Mrs. Speer

JOHN CROSBY BROWN
ELEVEN HUNDRED FIVE PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

and the members of Elliott's im-
mediate family I extend my
warm and heartfelt sympathy,
ever sincerely yours,

John Crosby Brown

Thursday, September 20th

Alexandria Pa

513
Rob dear,

I wish I could write you
a cheerful letter when you
have had real trouble and
if we could take the view
of trouble and sickness as
you can, life would be so
different. When we think
of that beautiful hymn,
"Some day, sometime we shall
understand" And what a happy
time that day shall be. I
guess you wonder why I
am so blue with a nice
home, well the main reason
is about a month ago my
nerves got upset and I feel
so badly I can scarcely go on.
I have not been so nervous
since before John passed

away, but my motto with
God's help is I shall win, as
my home is plain but lovely
I hope you shall get over
you come to Huntington
One thing makes people think
so much, there is not the
old fashioned dropping in
there used to be and one
alone who loves that life
and has been used to it can
not get used to so many
friends only calling once in
a while. This is a beautiful Oct
day. Please look over my blue
letter, but I am so alone. Pray
for me and write me soon

Lovingly,
Dorothea.

53

MRS. CLINTON H. BLAKE
LISBON, R. F. D. 4
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dear Lee Spear —

We have been
greatly shocked to
learn of your great
trouble.

Nothing which
your friends can
say can be of

MRS. CLINTON H. BLAKE
LISBON, R. F. D. 4
NEW HAMPSHIRE

much help. Cooper-
atively, but I do
want you to know
that you, and
all of you, have our
deep and under-
standing sympathy.
Sincerely yours
Clinton H. Blake
Thursdon.

643
Glendale, Ohio.

October 6th, 1934.

My dear friends;

I have been waiting for a quiet moment when I could sit down before the typewriter without a mental background of small things pressing upon my attention.

I am not sure whether the spirit of this note should be sympathy. I rather think not. After all it is not often that a father and mother live to see a son fulfill their highest aspirations as you have. And the end---seated in his library in fellowship with the good and great. What a heritage for his children!

Death is the great adventure of life. The unknown becomes the known, the questions are answered, limitations become possibilities, a new birth in which beauty and goodness survive, the dawn of another day, the fulfillment of unrealized aspirations.

And so as the autumn leaves blanket a new-made grave Mr. Blinn and I would leave you

"Alone with Thee amid the mystic shadows
The solemn hush of nature newly born".

Faithfully,

Mary Louise Blinn.

073

MOSES BREEZE, D. D.
5231 MOUNT HELENA :-: EAGLE ROCK
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE ALBANY 5610

Oct 4/34

My dear Dr. Spear:

My heart goes out to you in your
Sorrow. My son was called home.
in his twenty-fifth year and it seemed
for a while too hard to bear. But
your son's going is tragic
and uncalled for that I feel you need
our prayers and the sustaining grace
of our heavenly Father.

Will you please tell Mrs. Spear
that not a night has gone since
we heard of your sorrow that we
have not borne your household
to the throne of grace.

My great grace be given to you.

Yours deeply and warmly
Moses Breeze.

Dr. Robert E. Spear.
156. 5th Avenue.
New York. N. Y.

613
1261 Oscar Street, Victoria, B.C., Canada. October 1st, 1934.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

It is impossible for me to tell you how shocked we were on Saturday to get the news, through the Board, in New York, about the assassination of your Son, at Northfield. We felt stunned. Our hearts go out to you both, and to Mrs. Elliott Speer, and all your people, in this great loss and bereavement. Words fail us at a time like this, but we pray that comfort and strength may be granted to you all.

My brother from Uganda, who is now living in Victoria, wishes me to send you his sincerest sympathy also. He had the pleasure of meeting you both at the Students' conference at Northfield, in 1896. He was a member of the delegation from McGill in Montreal, and he still remembers most of Dr. Speer's address given to the students at that time, on James 1:27, and also Mrs. Speer singing so feelingly "Moment by Moment."

May our heavenly Father, at this time, make you feel His presence "Moment by Moment", is the earnest desire and prayers of us both.

With our love and sincerest sympathy,

*Christian Borup.
Christiane Borup*

120 East Main Street
Titusville, Pa
October 6, 1934,

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

(Yesterday we returned from a little trip through Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia, and found a letter from the Board confirming the notices we had seen in the daily press concerning the mysterious tragedy at Mt. Vernon. We wish to assure you of our sympathy with you and your family in this bereavement. What would life be in this world of uncertainties if it were not for our faith in the goodness of God.

Very sincerely yours,

Rev. & Mrs. G. F. Pickersaph.

Rev. A. Mason Brown
46 Glen Road
Woonsocket, R. I.Oct 12th 1934Robert E. Speer. D.D.
156 7 ifth Avenue
New York.

Dear Dr Speer: At the Fall meeting of
Providence Presbytery in the Woonsocket Church
it was voted that I convey to you, that
Presbytery unanimously expressed deep and sincere
sympathy with yourself and family. Words
cannot express how we have felt for you.
I would not intrude upon the sacred
sorrow of you and your loved ones by this note,
had I not been requested by Presbytery, to do
so. I am sure you will understand the brethren
wanted you to know. Sincerely yours
A. Mason Brown

First Presbyterian Church

W. F. BRADLEY, MINISTER

826 HOWARD STREET

CARTHAGE, MISSOURI

10-10-'34.

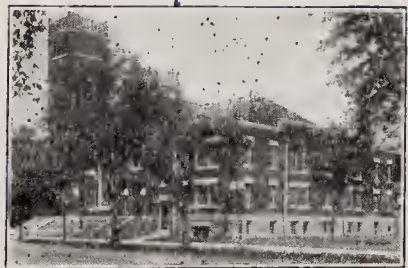
Doctor Robert E. Speer,
New York City.

Dear Doctor Speer:-

This is just a word to express to you the deep sympathy of my heart in this tragic sorrow which has come to you and yours.

Such a Providence - veiled and awful - is indeed a challenge to Faith, but I am persuaded that your many intimate and joyous years of fellowship with God have fortified you with a courage strong enough to bear it, and a faith that knows, "God doeth all things well."

Paul was lifted to the "third heaven" and there received visions unspeakable. But because of it, God afflicted him for life, with a "thorn in the flesh", lest he become exalted and boastful. It may be possible that the loving Father has laid upon you these deep wounds that He might, out of them, bestow upon you experiences of Divine Nearness & Love - such as no one can know except those who pay such a price. God had only one Son, and He was made a martyr to Truth and Righteousness. Is it not possible that God is asking you to share with Him in the same Cause and in the same manner? God knows how to sympathize with your broken heart - His was broken too!



My sympathy is deepened by the fact that I have a son, James Chapman Bradley, who is preparing himself to preach the Gospel. He was dedicated to the Lord before he was born - as no doubt your son was. The dangers of temptation and harm that beset him, make him our daily

First Presbyterian Church

W. F. BRADLEY, MINISTER

826 HOWARD STREET

CARTHAGE, MISSOURI

object of solicitude² and prayer. He is a student in Union Seminary and is associated with the First Presbyterian ^{church} of your city.

Permit me to add this word of appreciation. I have heard you speak a number of times, and I have read a number of your books, and all of these messages - whether spoken or written, have been a great help and inspiration to me.

May God add to your life great inner joys and comfort, until you can say with Job - "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away; Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Sincerely yours,

W. F. Bradley.





CITY OF CHICAGO

HOUSE OF CORRECTION

EDWARD J. KELLY, - - - - - MAYOR
EDWARD J. DENEMARK, SUPERINTENDENT

2800 S. CALIFORNIA AVENUE
TELEPHONE LAWDALE 0500

CHICAGO, *September*
19th 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer -
156 Fifth Avenue
New York.

Dear Friend:

Just read in the Chicago news
about your boy's death.

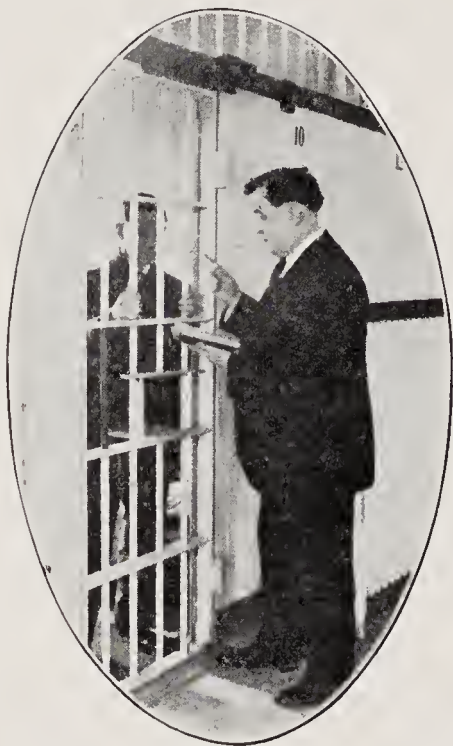
We are lifting you up in the arms of faith
to a Holy God, who knows how to comfort
you and all the loved ones he left behind.

May the Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Comfort his dear wife and children in the
prayers of,

Yours in Him

Christopher J. Balfe -

Number 9455



"I was in prison and ye came unto me."

Matt. 25:36

NUMBER 9455

THIS is the story of my journey from the arid fields of liberalism to the rich and blooming Garden of our Lord.

Of my ancestry little need be said. My forebears came to America before the wars of the Colonies, for freedom and independence. Some were brave and valiant highlanders from Scotland, others were from the plains of Navarre and fled to this land with other Huguenots; and among those I honor most were sons of Israel, whose ancestors had lived in the land that Jesus trod and who had lifted up their eyes unto Palestinean hills and gained strength.

It was my privilege to attend college and theological school at Galesburg, Illinois, and later to complete my work at the University of Chicago under Shailer Matthews, George Burman Foster, Allan Hoban, Theodore Soares and Dean Lewis Fisher, after which I entered the pastorate of the Unitarian church at Hinsdale, later accepting a call of the Unitarian church at Kenosha, Wisconsin. My training as a boy in the religious schools of the Unitarian Universalist church at Peoria, and the reform Hebrew Temple Anshe Emeth' at the same city had been complementary, and at college and theological school as well as in my boyhood days I always looked upon Jesus as a very interesting teacher, but one whose historicity was doubtful and who was not necessarily religiously helpful.'

And so I sank to the depths and found myself a sinner and a prisoner in the Chicago Bridewell. Chaplain C. J. Balfe one day offered me help if I could find a friend to call upon for aid, and I could think of none. And

Nor can we truly say that we have lived until we have had this blessed assurance and divine experience. There is a hunger never sated, a thirst never slaked without it. For this, and no less, were we born and came unto the world, that we should become the children of God, joint heirs with His Son.

Until we get that divine melody in our hearts that goes with the blessed assurance that we are His, none of us will make a dent in the life of the world. Not even truth can prevail until it find whole hearted adherents who will be its ambassadors, instant in season and out of season, devotees reckless of the cost, willing to spend and be spent and even to be persecuted for its sake.

In our reactions from a shallow emotionalism and a sickly sentimentality we have gone too far. We have forsaken the Holy Spirit, the fountain of living water, and hewn out cisterns of respectability, broken cisterns that hold no water. We, the children of the golden sun, have become worshippers of the silver but chilly moon. Intellect has usurped the throne of the Spirit, and cannot match its authority and power to sway.

If I have but one message to give to the world, but one last statement to make, it is this: "Accept the promises of our blessed Lord, realize that for us He died, and that by His shed blood we have full salvation, and that rich and blessed inner assurance that we are His."

Somehow, I will confess, I have a feeling that the Christian pulpit is too often toning down the distinctly Christian message, afraid to offend those who are but luke warm in the faith. Sometimes I wonder if we are not all of us tempted to be smart and clever rather than

profound, and Christianity, while simple, is a very profound thing. It deals with salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Its business is to do the business of the Son of God. The task of the Christian churches was not when Robert Ingersoll denied the Fatherhood of God; it was set up when Jesus of Nazareth affirmed it. He that doeth the will of God comes to know the doctrine. The pure in heart see God. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ saves and makes us whole.

Yours in the Master's Service,
J. M. D.

A Hymn

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Were the whole realm of nature mine;
That were a present far too small:
Love so amazing, so Divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

—ISAAC WATTS.

A Prayer

Most holy and merciful Father: We acknowledge and confess in Thy Presence: Our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good: And all our shortcomings and offenses against Thee. Thou alone knowest how often we have sinned: In wandering from Thy ways; In wasting Thy gifts; In forgetting Thy love. But Thou, O Lord, have pity upon us: Who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased Thee. Teach us to hate our errors; Cleanse us from our secret faults; And forgive our sins; For the sake of Thy dear Son our Saviour. And O most holy and loving Father: Send thy purifying grace into our hearts, we beseech Thee: That we may henceforth live in Thy light and walk in Thy ways; According to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

STATISTICS FOR 1930

Prisoners Received

Male - - 14,868
Female - - 2,070

Total 16,938

Color of Inmates

White - - 11,790
Black - - 5,139
Red - - 2
Yellow - - 7

Total 16,938

Social Relations

Married - - 6,519
Single - - 9,270
Divorced - - 126
Separated - - 221
Widowed - - 802

Total 16,938

Have

Children - 2,778
No Children - 4,890

Education

Illiterate - - 661
Read-Write 16,277

Total 16,938

Commitments

Previous

Male - - 8,592
Female - - 1,109
9,701

First Time

Male - - 6,176
Female - - 1,061
7,237

Total 16,938

Parents

Father Living 1,442
Mother " 2,894
F. and M. " 5,024
Parents Dead 7,578

Total 16,938

Ages of Inmates

16 years - - 19
17 - - 230
18 - - 356
19 - - 361
20 - - 409
21 - - 612
22 to 25 - - 2,820
26 to 30 - - 2,849
31 to 35 - - 2,206
36 to 40 - - 2,287
41 to 50 - - 2,819
51 to 60 - - 1,282
61 to 70 - - 569
over 70 - - 119

Total 16,938

Nativity of Inmates

U. S. Born - 12,739
U. S. Poss. - - 104
Foreign - - 4,095

Total 16,938

Nativity of Inmates'

Parents

U. S. Born - - 9,442
U. S. Poss. - - 39
Foreign - - 7,475

Total 16,938

Bridewell Prison

CHAPLAIN C. J. BALFE

28th Street and California Ave. -:- Chicago, Ill.

NUMBER 9455

THIS is the story of my journey from the arid fields of liberalism to the rich and blooming Garden of our Lord.

Of my ancestry little need be said. My forebears came to America before the wars of the Colonies, for freedom and independence. Some were brave and valiant highlanders from Scotland, others were from the plains of Navarre and fled to this land with other Huguenots; and among those I honor most were sons of Israel, whose ancestors had lived in the land that Jesus trod and who had lifted up their eyes unto Palestinean hills and gained strength.

It was my privilege to attend college and theological school at Galesburg, Illinois, and later to complete my work at the University of Chicago under Shailer Matthews, George Burman Foster, Allan Hoban, Theodore Soares and Dean Lewis Fisher, after which I entered the pastorate of the Unitarian church at Hinsdale, later accepting a call of the Unitarian church at Kenosha, Wisconsin. My training as a boy in the religious schools of the Unitarian Universalist church at Peoria, and the reform Hebrew Temple 'Anshe Emeth' at the same city had been complementary, and at college and theological school as well as in my boyhood days I always looked upon Jesus as a very interesting teacher, but one whose historicity was doubtful and who was not necessarily religiously helpful.

And so I sank to the depths and found myself a sinner and a prisoner in the Chicago Bridewell. Chaplain C. J. Balfe one day offered me help if I could find a friend to call upon for aid, and I could think of none. And

then it was I came to myself like unto the Prodigal Son of old. Brother Balfe had just reminded me that when a man has not even one friend, that he is poor indeed.

Sitting in the little cell in which I slept, there swept over me the consciousness that not only is Jesus a fact in history but the most striking and important man that ever lived. I realized that He has been a Saviour to millions, that He has given men a life purpose, and that "He lives forever."

This great, wise, loving Jesus realized in His life perfect communion with the Unseen Order which blossoms forth in human beings. He called it Father. To this order He turned for strength. From it strength flowed into Him. And uncounted millions who have turned to Him have experienced what He experienced. And as I pondered these things in my heart I gave myself to Him, fully conscious that an illusion cannot create a Jesus Christ.

I did not seek creeds nor dogmas but realized with intense emotion that loyalty to Him will clear up all dark places, for he that doeth the will comes to know the doctrine. The pure in heart see God. Calvary paid it all, the blood of the crucified One washed me clean, the clouds rolled away and I realized that I, who should have been lost in meshes of sin, but for the loving kindness of our Prison Chaplain, was now a child of the Father of Love, of Light, and of Eternal Strength. My happiness in this glorious experience knows no bounds. I have that blessed assurance that I am His.

For many years I had been under the illusion that Christianity was something which a man can possess, when the truth is that Christianity is something which may possess a man.

While science may be content with an outer assurance, and the scientist is satisfied that the evidence he gathers all goes to confirm the hypothesis he has formed,—Religion requires more. And the truly religious man is not satisfied when he holds a system of thought which fully meets the demands of his logical faculty, nor when he has discovered a rule of conduct which enables him to meet the average daily crisis. It is not enough that a man is good, that he is calm and confident, that he is energetic in good works and brave in trial. The truly religious man, saved by grace and the precious love of our Lord, is possessed with enthusiasm, he is exuberant, he rejoiceth at all times; His is that blessed assurance that the Holy Spirit dwells within him, that he has witnessed the power of the Holy One within. To the truly religious man life must answer him in the joy of his heart.

Since Jesus came into my heart, it has come to me that above the religion of the law and the letter, transcendent over creeds and code, there is an airy power that bears along everything else as a breeze bears leaves and straws. To be religious but oblivious to this power is as incomplete as to be the master of a brigantine and sail the seven seas without heed to courses of the trade winds.

It is our high privilege as human beings to enjoy every enriching experience that is open to man. Why should we deny ourselves the deepest, most stirring, and sublimest of all? Not all can travel and see the grandeur of the world; not all can be artists and triumph in skill, or actors waking to ecstasy the living lyre; but all can be whole, complete, and saved in the glorious experience of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Nor can we truly say that we have lived until we have had this blessed assurance and divine experience. There is a hunger never sated, a thirst never slaked without it. For this, and no less, were we born and came unto the world, that we should become the children of God, joint heirs with His Son.

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43

245 Summit Ave., Bellevue, Pa., Sept 18th, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

156 Fifth Ave.,

New York City:

Dear Dr. Speer:

I was shocked to read in the papers on last Saturday of the death of your son, Dr. Elliott Speer in his home in Northfield; and I now write you to give expression to my deep sympathy with you and Mrs. Speer in your sad affliction.

Words at such a time do not signify much, but yet absent from you it is only through human language that any expression of heart sympathy can be given. My heart goes out to you, dear Dr. Speer in your sadness at the taking away of your son, just entering upon the full flower of his manhood. It is hidden from us why he should have been taken; and it ~~is~~ ours to rest in the fact of both revelation and of experience that He doeth all things well.

Will you, Dr. Speer, express to your wife my deep sympathy with you in your sorrow; and may the God of peace and of all comfort be very present with you both to comfort and to sustain and to guide you in all things to His praise. My daughter Carren with whom I am joined in this expression of our sympathy with you:

Very Sincerely Yours:

Isaac Boyer

94
Dear Emma & Rob -

"There is no speech nor language -
Their voice is not heard"! But, if hearts - aches
are audible, you have heard! I have been
reliving the days of thirty years ago. Our
boys were - if you recall - often taken for
each other. One Sunday morning, as I
walked down Palisade Ave, Capestrano
called out of his door to say: 'I'd know
you anywhere, Mr Spur, with that boy.'
The resemblance faded with the years,
as each went his way, one to become
a specialist in the psychology of young
men, the other to specialize in
the bacteria of the laboratory - Elliot
the Stradivari, George the Professor.

I had now - yours the tragedy - and received
a cable from the Pope's Memorial Laboratory
in Panama: 'Fine trip, Collision included'.
Elliot died, George in an accident at sea!
The morning paper - as I got home - announced
the death of Dolly Vinton - and the progress
of the Lindbergh Kidnapper Case!

It is one tragic world! But that doesn't
make your sorrow the less. Dear friends,
who have been kinder to me than I can
even acknowledge, I just want to
tell you - if any words can do it -
how 'Sorry' I am, how I wish I could
do something to help you bear the
incomparable burden. I can't but
I want to.

My next birthday I shall be 70!
An old man, whose failures, I trust,
will be 'measured up' against his
efforts to 'do things'! But - success
or failure - he still wants the best for
his friends - among them, my dear -
You are now superior.

Love, sorrow, sympathy,

Monday

George C. Perry

674

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIOUX CITY, IOWA

September Twentieth
Nineteen-hundred
Thirty-four

PERCY EARLE BURTT, D. D.
MINISTER

DONALD C. FARLEY
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION

My dear Dr. Speer:

I am writing you with a heart full of sympathy and compassion.

Last night, we read, before we went to bed, that great passage II Cor. 1st Chapter, 3rd and 4th verses, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all tribulation that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God".

May the Divine arms encircle you and yours in these days. Heaven has come a great deal nearer to you than ever before. Mrs. Burt and I shall remember you constantly in our prayers.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing you a copy of a poem written some years ago by Douglas Malloch, which has in it, I think, a great deal of comfort, especially those closing lines,

"And where he is and where we are
Will never seem again so far."

With sincere regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Robert E. Speer, D.D.
156 - Fifth Avenue
New York City, N. Y.

P. E. Burt

Encl-

B/B

A COMRADE RIDES AHEAD

To the Memory of Emerson Hough

By Douglas Malloch

Time brings not death, it brings but changes;
I know he rides, but ~~rides~~ ^{rides} afar,
Today some other planet ranges
And camps tonight upon a star
Where all his other comrades are

For there were those who rode before him,
As there are these he leaves behind;
Although from us time's changes bore him,
Out there our comrade still will find
The kinship of the comrade mind.

Time brings us change and leaves us fretting;
We weep when ev'ry comrade goes--
Perhaps too much, perhaps forgetting
That over yonder there are those
To whom he comes and whom he knows.

I would not hold our loss too lightly;
God knows, and he, how deep the pain;
But, friends, I see still shining brightly
The brightest link in all our chain
That links us with a new domain.

For this I swear, because believing:
Time ~~breaks~~ ^{breaks} no circle such as this.
However hurt, however grieving,
However much a friend we miss,
Between the worlds is no abyss.

For friendship binds the worlds together--
World over there, world over here.
From earth to heaven is the tether
That brings the earth and heaven near
And makes them both a bit more dear.

Not weaker now our chain, but stronger;
In all our loss and all our ill
We now shall look a little longer
At ev'ry star above the hill
And think of him, and have him still.

Whatever vales we yet may wander,
What sorrow come, what tempest blow,
We have a friend, a friend out yonder,
To greet us when we have to go--
Out yonder someone that we know.

To all eternity he binds us;
He links the planet and the star;
He rides ahead, the trail he finds us,
And where he is and where we are
Will never seem again so far.

OT

HARRY BURTON BOYD

1724 ARCH ST.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

Sept-19-1934.

My Dear Dr. Speer:

Mrs. Boyd joins me
in extending to you and your
family our deepest sympathy
in your recent bereavement.

Sincerely yours

Harry Burton Boyd.

HENRY SEYMOUR BROWN
1323 CHICAGO TEMPLE
77 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CHICAGO

My dear Robert

There is nothing that we can say
or do to ease the terrible pain of this
experience. But I do want you to
know that from the bottom of our hearts
we sympathize with your stricken
household. The Father of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ will not fail
you. What a wonderful name for
the God whom we do know and in
whom in spite of life - or death
or any other - we believe,

God bless and strengthen you
& help you to carry on.

September Eighteen,
'34

Always yours
Henry S.

574

Honorary President
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156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY
SUITE 516

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September 19, 1934

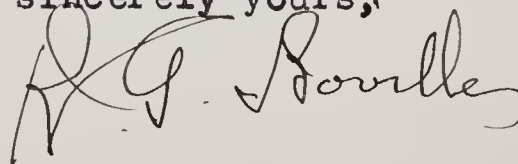
Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Secretary, Presbyterian Board
of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York

Dear Dr. Speer:

I have been distressed with a countless number of others, about the happening to your beloved son in Northfield. It is the worst case of human happenings that has occurred in my experience and shows a fiendishness if not fanaticism, that makes many question the existence of Divine Providence. I am sorry that you have been hurt and your honored wife also, and more, but of course you have not lost the memory of the service rendered in teaching of your beloved son, though to lose such a brilliant, winsome and even handsome son must be a distressing blow.

May the Lord of light strengthen and support you and your lady and give you such a spirit and such light that you may be able to be an even greater blessing to missionaries at home and abroad than you have ever been before. You have "the rod and staff" which always comfort when we walk through the valley of dark shadows.

Very sincerely yours,



018

Central Presbyterian Church
Summit, New Jersey

Minister
Rockwell S. Brank
52 Maple Street

September 15, 1934

Dear Dr and Mrs Spier:

My heart goes out to you in deep sympathy
in the tragic loss of your son Elliott. May you
be conscious in these sad days of the nearness
and comfort of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mrs Brank joins me in this prayer,

Yours faithfully.

Rockwell Brank

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MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WENONAH

NEW JERSEY

O. W. BUSCHGEN, D.D., Minister

September 17 1934

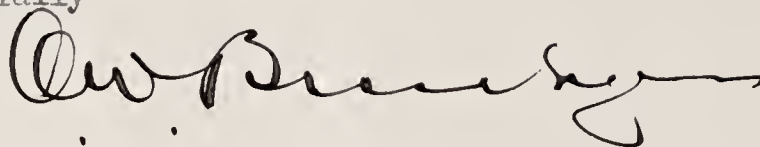
Dr Robert E Speer,

New York N.Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Our hearts go out to you and Mrs Speer and we
wish to assure you of our prayers and sympathy. Romans 8.28 still
holds. May God bless you.

Cordially

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "O. W. Buschgen".

HS

at Slano Heights, N.J.
Sept. 16, 1934

H.B.

Dear Doctor Beer,

Mrs. Barrachough, her mother -
Mrs. Rosenbergs and myself were
dreadfully shocked to read in
Saturday's papers of the awful
tragedy which has overtaken you
and yours.

We desire to assure you of
our heartfelt sympathy and
prayers, and express a fervent
hope that the one who committed
the unspeakable crime will be
swiftly apprehended.

With continued expression of
personal esteem,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Henry Barrachough L.

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LAW OFFICES
WILLIAM S. BENNET
25 BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY

September 15th 1934

Dear Doctor Speer:-

In common with the whole country
and your many friends throughout the
world, my family and myself are stricken
with inexpressible horror at the terrible
and shocking bereavement which has
come to you and yours.

Our deepest sympathy is yours for your-
self, your family and your sons family.

Yours very truly

William S. Bennett

To

Robert E. Speer

68

Sixth Avenue Presbyterian Church

SIXTH AVENUE AND EIGHTEENTH STREET, NORTH

PHONE 3-1097

JOSEPH McCLELLAN BROADY, PASTOR
MRS. THOS. S. GETTYS, SECRETARY

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Sept. 21, 1934.

Mr. Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

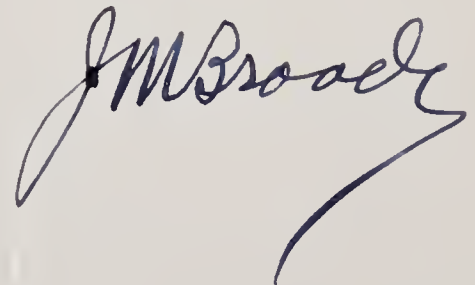
My dear Robert:-

I feel that I can say dear Robert this morning on account of the fine appreciation I have had for you all of these years, and the unspeakable tragedy that has come into your heart. I feel that all of your friends in the entire church would like to share with you, if possible, this load too heavy for any individual shoulders to bear.

I was shocked as was the entire country at this dasterdly deed and hasten to express to you my love and sympathy at this time of bereavement and irreparable loss. May the comforting presence of Him who has stood by you in all of the fine experiences of life be with you in a double portion in these days of great sorrow. At our prayer service on Wednesday night I spoke of this to my people and the entire congregation was deeply sympathetic. Special prayer was offered for you and your lovely family. Mr. Cosby and Mr. Barr of Acipco, wanted especially to be remembered to you in this hour.

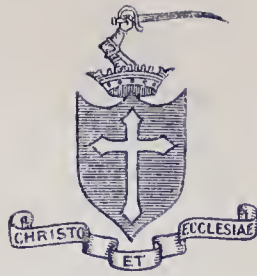
This note is just to let you know that we are praying for you that the marvelous sustaining grace of our Lord Jesus Christ may continue to be your comfort and consolation.

As ever your friend and brother in Christ,



JMB:AG

MS



Royal Poinciana Chapel
Interdenominational
Palm Beach

William Edward Biederwolf
Minister

Monticello, Indiana. September 22.1934

My dear Speer,

As the news came to me of the tragic death of your son at Northfield my heart went out to you and to Mrs. Speer in great sympathy. The whole country has been shocked at this occurrence so sad and so strange but those of us who know you best can sense something of the deep sorrow that is yours in the loss you have sustained and which has been deepened by the distressing way it came about. Mrs. Biederwolf joins me in these lines of prayerful sympathy and we commend you both to the comfort wherewith we are comforted of Him who understands and holds us tight in hours such as these through which you have been called to go.

With deep sympathy and love,

W.E. Biederwolf

12.14 Knowles St.

John

Sept. 27/34.

My Dear Mr Speer.

I was in Hospital about three month: through Gods mercy I once more came to life: And I heard those very sad news: about your very Dear son.

I wish I was able: to explain my sorrow and sympathy with you.

I only can pray: that God may heal the wounds of your broken heart: And comfort you in such an hour of sorrow.

I wish I could write better words in English.

May God help us: to meet with Jesus: and our Dear one in heaven

Yours very respectfully
David. J. Benjamin

ack. 9/28/34

MRS. EMMA F. BYERS - 400 EAST 49th STREET - NEW YORK, N. Y.

Sunday Evening

Oct. 7/34

My dear Friend:

You have been in my heart and mind almost constantly in the past few weeks.

I have been wanting to invite you, but have felt that your home were so sacred and so crowded that I ought to wait awhile.

My first thought when I read that cruel story in the Morning Times, was that there was no one so well fitted to bear sorrow as you were.

It didn't need your precious "Lord
Teach Me to Pray", which I had
been reading, to tell me that
you were a Woman of God.
I have long known that. But
it has been a blessing to me
to read the little book at
this time and it seems wonderful
that you could have prepared
such a message for your
sorrowing friends at this time.

Ruth writes in quite a
heart broken way about you.
I have had to tell her many
things of you that I have
been learning these many years.

I think of Dr. Speer too.
How many friends there are
in the world that are loving
and praying for you both.

My love as always to you
dear friend. Don't trouble to
write. I shall hope to see
you some time in the not
too distant future.

Yours devotedly

Emma Byers

AS

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

THE MINISTER'S STUDY
WILLIAM HENRY BODDY

September 26, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Speer:

You and Mrs. Speer have been constantly in our minds. You have been remembered in public prayers of Westminster Church and in all our private devotions. We do not understand, of course, but it was out of Calvary that redemption came.

God keep you all.

Faithfully,


William H. Boddy

WHB:rk

678

OFFICE OF
FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY
PUBLISHERS
NEW YORK CHICAGO
LONDON AND EDINBURGH
CABLE: "REVELL"

158 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

Reps 15/34

Dear Mr. Green-

All your love thought
so much of you - one and all - Words are

your things at such a time - But we do

want you and your family to know that

you have our deep sympathy and our

prayer in this sad hour.

It is too awful to consider possible!

Very Sincerely

Wille Barlow.



508
The Baird Anchor Farm

"Anchored to the rocks---Durocs and Barred Rocks"

DeForest E. Baird, Owner and Manager

Bethany, Illinois

September 24th, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Sir:

I have just read in the Presbyterian of the death of your son.

I know how hollow words are - sometimes even the words of our best friends - in times of grief. But I think my father would want me to write you.

I am the only son of John Harris Baird. I became interested in you and your work years ago, through his interest. And that interest was renewed a year or so ago when my aunt, Mrs. Annabelle Baird Brown, wrote me a long letter about the seventy-fifth anniversary of the old Limestone church. I did not know you had a son - but my middle name is Elliott. So you will know my sympathy is sincere.

Very truly yours,

DeForest E. Baird.

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LOUIS A. BLACK

MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE

Maryville College,
September 25, 1934.

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D. D.,
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My Dear Dr. Speer:

It seems impossible for me to get over the feeling that gripped me on reading in a Knoxville paper of the tragic death of your son Elliott. That one of so promising a life should so suddenly and tragically be taken is beyond human understanding. Several of us here have been praying for you and Mrs. Speer, even though we cannot enter fully into your experience of loss and loneliness and tragedy. The comforting Heavenly Father alone can be to you all that you need in this extreme experience. You will be sustained; your faith will not fail, for you have learned to say: "Our confidence is in God." We can only assure you of our heartfelt sympathy and that we are praying for you.

When Elliott was in England for work in the British Camps I was at the American Headquarters of the Y M C A and became well acquainted with him. As a result of that acquaintance I have maintained an interest in him, and it pleased me very much when he was called to Northfield.

I wish earnestly that I could help you in some way.

Very sincerely yours,

Louis A. Black.

018

The Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas

Fifth Avenue and Forty-eighth Street West

New York

MINISTERS

MALCOLM JAMES MACLEOD, A.M., D.D.

EUGENE CARSON BLAKE, A.B., TH. B.

WINFRED RUGAN ACKERT, A.M., D.D.

September 26, 1934

My dear R. Green,

When I heard of Elliott's death, I wrote
his wife at once but it occurred to me
almost immediately after that I wanted to
write you also. I have neglected it until now.
I did not know Elliott very well but did
enjoy seeing him when I was at Northfield.
It is hard to understand his going.

This note is but a word of sympathy
to you and Mrs. Speer ^{for} in this experience
which in some ways is harder for you than
any one else. Mrs. Blake, and my mother whom
you remember who is visiting us now wish
also to express their sympathy. Faithfully yours,
Eugene Blake

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THE PITTSBURGH-XENIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF
OLD TESTAMENT LITERATURE AND EXEGESIS
A. H. BALDINGER, D.D.

Sept. 16-1934

My Dear D. Speer:

The shocking news from Mt. Hermon has left us all, not only bewildered, but deeply moved in sympathy for all concerned.

I know how many are your intimate friends throughout the world, and how quickly they will respond to your tragic sorrow. Under the circumstances one in my position hesitates to write lest his note should seem to be a mere intrusion, but I cannot avoid sending you this word of heart-felt sympathy.

After all there is really nothing one can say, and nothing one can do except perhaps breathe the prayer - God be with you and yours! You may be sure a host of your friends in the United Presbyterian Church are joining in this prayer.

Very Sincerely

A. H. Baldinger

75
WILLIAMS COLLEGE
WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Nov. 1934

Dear Robert -

I have waited to write to you, knowing that you would be overwhelmed with messages of sympathy, and hoping too that time would give some explanation of the sudden tragedy at Northfield.

At this distance, I can only send you this expression of my heart-felt sorrow for your bereavement, and say that I have thought of you very often. There are no friends like old friends, and I have known you fifty years.

Sincerely and affectionately
Falcott W. Banks

Clarence A. Barbour

RECEIVED

NOV 1 1934

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
BROWN UNIVERSITY
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

15

Ans.

October 31, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Robert:

I am just in receipt of an invitation to the memorial service for Elliott at Mount Hermon on Sunday, November 11th. I see that you are to be the speaker. I am glad that you can render that great service. No one could do it as well. It will be a wonderful occasion. I would be glad to be there for every reason. I cannot, however, for I am on November 11th at Cornell University for the service in Sage Chapel.

With warm and constant regard,

Very sincerely yours,

Clarence

Clarence A. Barbour.

Cek.

JAMES B. BAILEY
517 COMMERCIAL TRUST COMPANY BLDG.
PHILADELPHIA

9/15/34.

Dear Emma.

I have had in mind a
note to you after we heard
your voice on the phone
which was much appreciated
by us, now I must write
to acknowledge your
telegram from Ed. Workman.
It is hard to understand
just why or how things
of this kind happen
our hearts go out to you
all in warmest love
and deepest sympathy.
Your loving brother
Jim

Yosip Benjamin

Columbia S.C.

NOV 16 1934

Nov. 14th 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer

New York N.Y.

27

My dear Dr. Speer:

It was few days ago that I heard about your son, being killed! We are very - very sorry to hear this! Since then, you have been constantly in my mind and in my prayers. We just do not know what to do, to be of help to you. You surely have our deepest sympathy in this exceedingly trying time. I am sure you have the sympathy of millions of the people, who love you and consider you a great and heroic man of God. We can only pray earnestly that He Who is able to do all things, to help you and keep you and to comfort you. May He with His all-loving, all-healing presence fill the empty place in your home and in your noble heart. We know, it must be almost unbearable for his Mother, if she is living.

May you all, receive power from on high to bear this bitter cup with patience, knowing that all things work together for good to them who love the Lord.

Your strong messenger and your writings have brought joy and comfort to many.

Thousands of the people, all over the world;
and we pray that even in this bitter trial
Christ may be magnified in your noble life.
May the great peace of God that passeth
all understanding keep your hearts and
minds and give you comfort.

My wife and children join me in this
letter; and in sending you, and all yours,
our love and best wishes.

Yours in His Name
Josiah Benjamin

15 Alameda Court
Santa Barbara, Calif.
November 25th '34

My very dear old friends:-

It is so long since
we have met, that I do not
know as you will remember me,
but I have never forgotten you
and often think back to the
old days in England -

My heart has been so full of
love and sympathy for you
since I have learned of the
great sorrow which has come
to you - and I want to tell

you of it, though it is hard to put
into words. I can understand what
a sorrow it is, and I know that you
have God's dear love to sustain and
help you -

My mother and my sisters have passed
away, so I am alone. Though I
have one married sister, very not
far away, so I am not entirely alone.
I did not write immediately as I
knew you would have almost more
than you could bear - but I do
want you to know that I love
you and feel most deeply for you -

Lovingly,

Elizabeth H Banks -

My sister Martha was always so
fond of you, & had much help
from being with you, as we all had.
E.H.B.

R. F. Speer

NOV 28 1934

George A. Buttrick

THE MADISON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

921 Madison Avenue

New York City

W30

MINISTERS

George Arthur Buttrick

Philip Cowell Jones

Robert Wyckoff Searle

Henry Howard Black

November 27, 1934

Dear Dr. Speer:

This is a personal word of gratitude to you for your willingness to speak here on December 12th, and a personal word of hope that Mrs. Speer will be able and willing to come with you. The occasion has been made a Church Dinner. Dr. Arthur J. Brown has also been invited as special guest. Dr. Schell will preside. If you will permit, word will be spoken signaling your service to the Church and especially to the missionary cause, and the meeting will be in the nature of a testimony of our gratitude.

I am sure that at the meeting you will also feel (though no direct word may be spoken) the depth and measure of our sympathy for Mrs. Speer and you. We have all wished to tell you what a blessing you have been to all of us by your courageous Christian bearing, and to assure you that you go guarded daily by the prayers of a multitude of friends. Here in this church we constantly pray for you this blessing "which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow".

With grateful and kindest regards,
Sincerely,

George A. Buttrick

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.